Monday, June 18, 2012 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 190 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DISTANCE to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Euro future hinges on cliffhanger Greek vote

ATHENS—Greeks voted on Sunday for the second time in six weeks with a pervasive sense of dread that whatever the outcome of the country's most critical election in 40 years will fail to resolve the political and economic turmoil that threatens the future of Greece—and the financial stability of Europe itself.

The Greek turmoil sparked by a two-year financial crisis has roiled markets across the world, with fears that a victory by political parties that have vowed to cancel the country's international bailout agreements and accompanying

(LWG) A23

CHANGING OF GUARD A night before election day, a Greek Presidential Evzoni guard prepares for a changing of the guard in front of the Greek parliament in Athens. As Greece heads for a momentous electoral battle that could decide whether it stays in the euro zone, party leaders are scrambling to reassure angry voters they can bank on the single currency

China hails PH pullout

No signs Sino ships leaving Panatag

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CHINA yesterday welcomed the Philippine government's decision to order home its two vessels that had been facing off with Chinese ships at Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The withdrawal of a Philippine Coast Guard patrol vessel and a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) survey ship on Friday ended the standoff after two months and one week, leaving China in control of Scarborough Shoal.

President Aquino ordered the two vessels home on Friday night as a typhoon over the Pacific Ocean and a low-pressure system over Palawan combined to cause stormy weather in the West Philippine Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said there were negotiations for China's withdrawal from the shoal, but as of yesterday, there were no signs that the Chinese vessels in the area were preparing to go home.

In a text message to the

CHINA A10

DOOR IN HEART Burma's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi says that winning the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize while under house arrest "opened up a door in my heart," encouraging her to continue her struggle. She gave her Nobel lecture in Oslo.

Suu Kyi: Nobel Prize ensured Burma would not be forgotten

OSLO, NORWAY—When she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, while under house arrest in Burma (Myanmar), Aung San Suu Kyi said on Saturday, she realized that the Burmese "were not going to be forgotten."

When the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded her the prize, she said in her Nobel lecture here on Saturday, 21 years later, it was recognition that "the oppressed and the isolated in Burma were also a part of the world, they were recognizing the oneness of humanity."

But "it did not seem quite real, because in a sense I did not feel myself to be quite real at that time," she said. "The Nobel Peace Prize opened up a door in my heart."

She said the prize "had made me real once again; it had drawn me back into the wider human community" and it had given the oppressed people of Burma, whose rulers call Myanmar, and its dispersed refugees, new hope.

"To be forgotten," Suu Kyi added, "is to die a little."

In a quiet, clearly voice, she asked the world not to forget

(LWG) A10

PARAÑAQUE SHOOTOUT

Appellate court orders arrest of 8 policemen

By Marlon Ramos

PENALTY, the wheels of justice have started to turn for the family of Alfonso de Vera, the watchtowing assistant who was killed together with his 7-year-old daughter during an exchange of gunfire between police and suspected robbers in Parañaque City in December 2008.

The Court of Appeals has ordered the arrest of eight Parañaque policemen involved in the shootout with members of the Wanay-Wanay robbery group that left 16 people dead, including De Vera and his daughter Lia Alissa.

The number of fatalities in the bruising gun battle, which also resulted in a sudden drop in robberies in Metro Manila, was the biggest in police records of recent clashes between law enforcers and criminals.

In its June 13 resolution, the Court of Appeals said Parañaque Regional Trial Court Judge Jaime Guray committed grave abuse of discretion when he junked for lack of probable

APPELLATE/A21

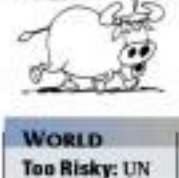
UST snubs 'sick books' crusader's bid for degree

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief i-Team

ANTONIO CALIPIO GO was incensed when he learned in January that the venerable University of Santo Tomas (UST) had supposedly bent its rules to grant Renata Corona, the ousted Chief Justice, a doctorate in law, summa cum laude.

Eleven months earlier, the self-styled "sick books crusader" asked for information—no, he wasn't applying, just asking—about UST's Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (Eteeap) under which work experience and other nontraditional means of education are awarded credits for an academic degree.

LAST SIN BIN/ A20



Without kickbacks, 'jueteng' thrives

By Gil C. Cabacungan

A VISAYAS lawmaker has an explanation for why "jueteng," "masiao" and other illegal numbers rackets are still flourishing in some parts of the country.

This is because the traditional sources of "boody" for local government officials and other politicians—such as those hefty kickbacks from road projects—are drying up under President Aquino's "daang matuwid (righteous path)" program, Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo "Albee" Benitez said yesterday.

"The President's relentless anticorruption efforts have been so broad and so relentless that some local government officials are resorting to other means to maintain their 'livelihood' under this

WITHOUT/ A23

WORLD
Too Risky: UN suspends Syria mission / A27

LEARNING
La Salle looks to next 100 years / H1

ACROSS
Arab journalist, crew kidnapped, says prof / A14

NEWS
6-magnitude earthquake jolts Luzon / A2

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

2D: 23 22 | 16 21 | 16 28

6/45 ULTRA LOTTO: 0 3 | 0 0 | 0 3 | 0 7

4D: 2 4 2

6/49 SUPER LOTTO: 10 13 | 13 15 | 18 46

P20,337,350.40

6-magnitude quake jolts Luzon

A STRONG earthquake jolted Manila and outlying provinces yesterday, rousing some people from their sleep, but it was not strong enough to generate a tsunami alert.

Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6 and was most probably caused by movements in the Manila Trench in the West Philippine Sea. (Inside Luzon Strait) off northern Zambales.

The tremor was the first of four earthquakes generated off the coast of Zambales, Phivolcs said. It occurred at 4:28 a.m. and was centered 80 km west of Candelaria town.

Three weaker aftershocks followed, according to Phivolcs. The tremors happened at 6:27 a.m., 8:49 a.m. and 7:05 a.m., all recorded at 3-magnitude. The 7:05 a.m. quake was the nearest to land, just 34 km west of Candelaria town.

Earlier, at 1:18 a.m., Bugallon City was shaken by a 3.6-magnitude quake whose epicenter was traced to 5 km northwest of La Trinidad, Benguet.

"Any earthquake felt is a very large one is terrible," Soliduum said, referring to the movement of the earth's plates.

On Ring of Fire

The Philippines sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire — a belt around the Pacific Ocean dotted with active volcanoes and unstable areas towards. One fault line runs directly under Manila.

The earthquake was felt shallow, the shift happening just 4 km below ground. But since it happened offshore, the tremor as land never reached, according to Paulo Alcazar, a Phivolcs researcher.

Swaying objects

No damage or casualties were reported from the incident.

Phivolcs said the quake was felt at intensity 4 in Candelaria, Pasigaran and Makali (IX). At intensity 4, people indoors would feel the vibration. It would also cause hanging objects to sway.

Clark, Pampanga, San Fernando, La Union, and Pasay and Taguig cities experienced intensity 3 tremors. Parts of Bulacan and Cavite recorded intensity 2, while Tagaytay City shook to intensity 1.

Bilgalolah measures the energy released at the source of the earthquake while intensity measures the strength of the shaking produced by the earthquake at a certain location.

The earthquakes were produced by a very active Manila Trench, Alcaraz said. The Manila Trench, which runs deep to 5,400 meters, is a geologic fault line that stretches along the West Philippine Sea. Incidents describe the trench as very geologically active, often shifting and producing earthquakes.

Graciela Marahoyo, head of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Zambales, said no damage or injury was reported from the shaking that lasted about 30 seconds.

Didn't last long

"It's good it didn't last long. If it did, it might have caused damage," Marahoyo said in a phone interview.

She said the province's disaster management team was activated after the quake struck.

Marahoyo called the mayor of Candelaria and checked the condition. The quake was strong, but the aftershocks lasted longer," she said.

She said they were continuously monitoring the situation from the provincial capitol.

Catholic priests in Central Luzon said early morning Masses were briefly disrupted as churchgoers noticed the shaking.

Israel Sadua, 43, a resident of Bulacan, Pampanga, said his first impulse was to get his wife and run out of the house. "But the earthquake stopped before we were able to go outside," he said.

Edwin Enemesio, a high school student also from Bulacan, said the earthquake scared her family from sleep.

Not a dream

"I thought I was dreaming but then I heard my parents say that there was an earthquake. I got out of bed but it stopped after a while," she said.

Saturday's quake was the ninth to strike Zambales since January. Phivolcs records showed.

In February, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake that hit Negros and Cebu provinces triggered landslides that left more than 100 people dead or missing.

In 1990, a 7.7-magnitude quake killed nearly 2,000 people in northern Luzon. With reports from Tonette Orejas, Robert Gonzaga and Jun Widlig, Inquirer Central Luzon; Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Ritchie L. Alway, AFP and AP

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New system weakens 'Butchoy'

By Kristine L. Alave

A TROPICAL depression south of China is blocking the effects of Typhoon "Butchoy" over the western seaboard of Luzon, weather forecasters said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said a tropical cyclone that formed in southern China was having some unexpected effects—it was making the monsoon in the southwest part of the country unstable and that it was strong in Visayas, weather forecaster Gladys Saculles said.

Pagasa, disaster management officials were not taking any chances. Relief and emergency plans were put in place in towns in northern Luzon as Sunday passed 550 kilometers east of Aparri yesterday afternoon.

Pagasa said there was very little chance Butchoy would make landfall in the Philippines. However, a had increased wind velocity to 185 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness up to 220 kph and had a diameter of 800 km.

Early today, Butchoy is expected to be 500 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes. Moving at 22 kph, it will be out of the Philippine area of responsibility by Tuesday morning, Saculles said.

The storm in southern China was moving closer to the Philippines but was unlikely to enter the country, Pagasa said.

Saculles said fair weather to the Visayas and Mindanao were starting to be felt.

Nonetheless, Pagasa warned ships against venturing out to sea.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Executive Director Benito Ramos said "storm can get" even still possible.

"The waves are still big out there," Ramos said over the phone yesterday afternoon. He said coastal residents should take precautions.

Yesterday, two crew members of a small cargo boat were rescued after their vessel nearly sank off the remote island of Romblon, a Coast Guard official said.

Lt. Cmdr. Dionisio Alcaraz, commander of the Coast Guard station in Catanduanes, Bicol, said no one was injured and the boat was towed back to shore. With Leila Salaverria, Bong Pineda, Jaymee Gamil and Reuters reports

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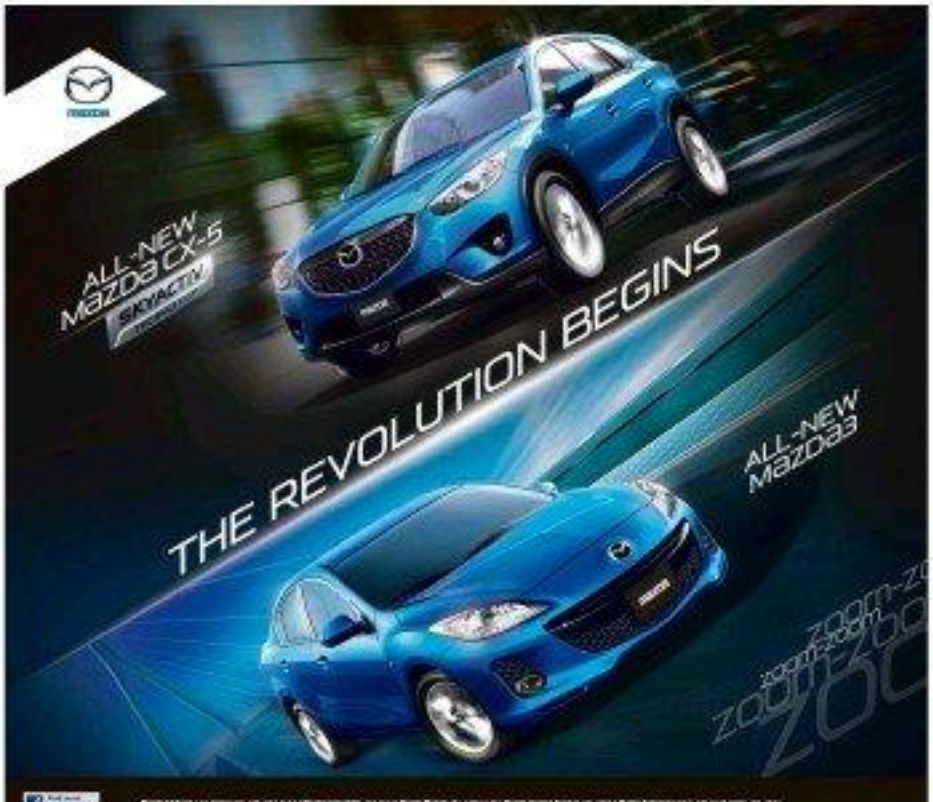

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Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
CONSUMER ADVOCATE

NOW THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED ON THE VALIDITY OF THE PCOS MACHINES, PNOY MUST ORDER THE COMELEC TO MOVE ON. AND FAST.

11 months and counting. That's all the time the Comelec has to ensure that the 2013 automated elections will be orderly, accurate, free of glitches AND credible.

DESPITE THE GREEN LIGHT GIVEN BY THE POST CORONA SUPREME COURT, GOV'T WATCH BELIEVES THAT THE COMELEC AND SMARTMATIC MUST ASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT THE REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE USE OF THE SMARTMATIC PCOS MACHINES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED.

Among these are the following:

1. Presence of a prohibited console port in the PCOS machines which will allow for easy unsecured access to the machine's operating system.
2. The absence of crucial identifying digital signatures making it impossible to verify the source of transmitted results.
3. Ineffectiveness of the ultra-violet sensor lamps allowing the use of non-security ballot paper.
4. Incorrect date and time stamps making an effective audit trail virtually impossible.
5. Various bugs and flaws in the system software.

GOV'T WATCH STRONGLY URGES THE COMELEC TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Do an actual simulation via mock elections in selected areas nationwide using the updated and corrected PCOS machines.**

   In this regard, Chairperson Cora dela Paz and Namfrel, and other civic organizations together with Gov't Watch will help set up this simulation. Gov't Watch Chairman Raul T. Concepcion, has committed his companies' 48 provincial offices to help coordinate this simulation.

2. **Smartmatic representatives must be present during the simulation and the actual elections in May 2013.**

3. **Electronic voter registration using Biometrics must be implemented** to cleanse the voters' list especially in identified cheating-prone areas.

4. **Comelec should open watch-dog functions to experienced and credible civic organizations such as Namfrel.**

AND NOW, GOV'T WATCH WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT BENIGNO AQUINO III...

Mr. President, the nation stands foresquare behind you in your vision of **Matuwid na Daan** and your desire to eradicate graft and corruption through transparency and accountability in governance.

The Filipino people and the world at large are one with you in your efforts to uplift our economy, improve the lives of our people and finally bring our country on the right track to development and progress.

Indeed you will be remembered for all these sincere and well-meaning efforts.

Gov't Watch however maintains, that the greatest legacy you will leave our country is the cleansing of our electoral process. Where the will and choice of the people will prevail. And this can only happen if you will institutionalize clean, honest, accurate and credible elections.

THE 2013 MIDTERM ELECTIONS WILL BE THE LITMUS TEST.

WE NEED TO BE ASSURED THAT COME 2016, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ELECT THE PERSON WHO CAN FOLLOW THE TOUGH ACT YOU WOULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Your comments or suggestions on this issue are important to us:

Do you Agree or Disagree that PNoy must order the Comelec to move fast and ensure that the PCOS Machines will function without any glitches in 2013?

GOV'T WATCH would like to get your comments or suggestions on it.
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GOV'T WATCH

Survey: Folks back K to 12

MOST Filipinos believe the K to 12 (Kindergarten to Grade 12) program of the Department of Education (DepEd), which adds two years to the 10-year education cycle, will better prepare students for work and college, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

Quoting from the survey, the DepEd said in a statement that 68 percent of Filipinos think the new program will give students sufficient knowledge and preparation to pursue higher education.

The survey also showed that 59 percent believed more students would be encouraged to complete the senior high school program since it would be equivalent to taking two years of college in high school.

Like college

Tina Canoni, head of DepEd's communications department, said the agency paid for the rider questions in the March 2011 SWS survey to get the public pulse on the program.

The survey, which covered 1,200 adult respondents nationwide, was conducted on March 19-13 using face-to-face interviews. The survey had a sampling error margin of three to six percent.

The DepEd said those who believed strongly believe and somewhat believe that students need to benefit from the program had always been a majority in the surveys conducted in June 2011 (59 percent), September 2011 (63 percent) and December 2011 (57 percent).

Up by 15 points

Compared to the previous quarter, the proportion of those who believe in K to 12 rose by 11 points to seven. Manila, 12 points in the Visayas and eight points in Luzon, excluding Metro Manila.

Across socioeconomic classes, it rose by 11 percent in class D, from 59 percent to the previous quarter to 68 percent. The slightly changed in class E, from 58 percent to 60 percent, and in class ABC, from 70 percent to 67 percent.

Public awareness of the K to 12 program rose from 39 percent in December 2011 to 69 percent in March this year, the highest since SWS began monitoring in June 2011.

This year, the DepEd began implementing the K to 12 curriculum in Grade 1 and Grade 7 in private schools for the program's full implementation by 2016.

Nikko Dizon

JPE: Pork not on CJ trial menu

By Cathy Rasmussen

MANY senators, That's Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's challenge to people questioning that the senators accepted "pork" from Malacañang in exchange for their votes that convicted Chief Justice Renato Corona last month.

Enrile was reacting yesterday to reports quoting Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago as saying that the senators who voted to convict Corona after a 44-day impeachment trial may have been given "other considerations" by Malacañang.

Enrile said that as Senate President, he would have been the first to know if this were true, especially when it concerned the pork barrel or Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

Fortunately, it is not, he said.

"There would be public records about pork released to us," Enrile said in an interview over radio dzBB. "Why not disclose it to the public?" he said in Filipino.

Open to scrutiny

Enrile maintained that he only received the pork barrel regularly given to senators. Each senator is allotted P170 million a year in the PDAF, which channels public funds to lawmakers' projects.

"I only got my ordinary pork that is transparent, regularly," Enrile said. "Anyone is free to scrutinize how I used it. I assure everyone that it was used for projects that helped the needy."

Corona's lawyers dusted the talk of Malacañang using the pork barrel to secure the removal of Corona. They called a news conference just before the impeachment trial resumed in May after the suspension of break for Lent and claimed that officials close to President Aquino who were responsible for governmental funding were offering senators P100 million each in "soft projects" in exchange for votes to convict Corona.

20 guilty votes

Corona's trial ended on May 29 with 20 of the 23 senators finding him guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution by not declaring P2.4 million and P80 million in bank accounts.

He was dismissed, permanently barred from holding public office, and all of his benefits were forfeited by the government.

The Judicial and Bar Council is screening at least 50 candidates to find three to five nominees to recommend to President Aquino for Corona's replacement.

Two weeks ago, Santiago said some of the senators who voted to convict him had spent two days before judgment day (five of those who ran for the elections in 2013).

Santiago was one of the three senators who voted to acquit Corona.

"I am not upset by three reasons because they are not true to all," Enrile said. He added, "Even those senators who voted to acquit also got their pork."

'Who made the offer?'

Enrile explained that the outcome of the impeachment trial was a result of the individual judgment of the senators who assessed the evidence presented by both the prosecution and the defense.

"So anyone who accuses that there were other considerations is wrong," he said.

Then he threw down the gauntlet: "If there is anyone who made an offer, say so. Name the one who offered and who was offered."

'Chief Justice must be most senior'

By Marlon Ramos

THE 24TH CHIEF Justice of the Supreme Court must be the most senior member of the tribunal in order to "insulate" the post from the "patronage system," according to

Raphael Lotilla.

Lotilla, a former professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law, made the remark as he voiced down his nomination as a possible successor to Renato Corona, who was removed by the Senate impeachment court on May 22.

Amid reports that President Aquino was considering an outsider to replace Corona, Lotilla underscored the importance of appointing a current magistrate of the 15-member court to head the high tribunal.

In a letter to Calixto Chikiamco, who nominated him to the Judicial and Bar Council which will screen the candidates, Lotilla said he believed the appointment of a Chief Justice based on seniority "is a tradition that has withstood the test of time, save for the controversial appointment from without and outside of the court."

He lamented in the letter released yesterday that the tradition of appointing the most senior justice to succeed a departing Chief Justice had been upturned "without any legal compulsion beheaded it."

In 2005, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo named Artemio Panganiban to replace Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., bypassing Reynato Puno, then the most senior justice.

In another controversial decision in 2010, Arroyo named Corona as Puno's successor despite questions over her authority to appoint public officials within the 60 day election period.

Antonio Carpio, currently the acting Chief Justice and the most senior magistrate, had then declined a nomination to the position. He said then that appointing a Chief Justice was in violation of the constitutional prohibition on "midnight appointments."

Lotilla also noted that Justice Jose B.L. Reyes had given way to Roberto Concepcion, then the most senior magistrate, as Chief Justice in 1986.

"Over the long term, particularly under future presidencies whose virtues we are unable to anticipate at this point, adherence to the principle of seniority may still be our best option," Lotilla said.

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Disini: No go-between

By Marlon Ramos

RECORDS SHOW Secretary Cesar Drilon, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has denied endorsing the contract for the $2.3 billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

In a statement, Disini's lawyer Jose Bernas said he never endorsed and advised Chief Justice Antonio Carpio that he "unilaterally" changed his "decision" and "advised the assigned law by breaking the BNPP contract.

"Disini was named a special sales representative by Westinghouse and not a go-between which implies that he awarded the project to Westinghouse was obtained irregularly and would not have been given had Disini not been the go-between," Bernas said.

Drilon has filed a libel suit against Panganiban for the article in the Inquirer and for "wanton destruction and reckless disregard of facts."

In a reply to Panganiban's counsel dated June 1, Drilon said the retired magistrate "maliciously ascribed to me the commission of a crime, particularly corruption of a public official and violation of the antigraft law," by referring to him as Westinghouse's "go-between with Marcos."

He claimed Panganiban intentionally misquoted a 1991 New Jersey court resolution "to make it appear that the New Jersey court had found Disini guilty of bribery."

"In fact, the final decision of the court in 1993 dismissed all charges against Westinghouse and Disini and found no evidence of bribery or illegality," Bernas said.

Drilon also accused the Inquirer of refusing to publish his two letters in response to Panganiban's article "After 26 Years Still Lost in Nothing," which came out in his column, With Due Respect, on March 27, 2011.

The lawyer said his client had also been absolved of any complicity in several criminal cases filed against in the United States, Switzerland and the Philippines in connection with the BNPP deal.

But on April 11 this year, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Disini's $56.6-million commission from the deal was "ill gotten" and ordered him to return it to the government.

Loitering BI personnel warned

By Jeroen Aning

EMPLOYEES at the Bureau of Immigration's (BI) main office in Intramuros, Manila, have been ordered not to hang out in nearby restaurants during office hours following reports that such places were the venue for "fixing" transactions.

Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David Jr. issued a memorandum last week prohibiting, under pain of disciplinary action, all BI employees from entering boarding-rules and restaurants, as well as the two commissioner's offices.

David in a statement said that "idling and loitering" during office hours violated civil service rules and regulations and were punishable by suspension and dismissal.

Such establishments are off limits to immigration employees from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 to 5:30 p.m. on regular work days, David said in the memo.

The commissioner instructed the bureau's civil security unit to strictly enforce the order and report any employees caught defying it.

Two years ago, a similar directive was issued by then BI officer-in-charge Rodolfo Lachera following reports that some BI employees frequented the restaurants to transact "business" with "clients."

David said he was prompted to enforce the ban on loitering after he was informed that BI employees were again spotted in the restaurants during office hours.

BI acting administrator chief Alberto Bragances said that under definitions in the civil service rules, frequent unauthorized absence constitutes loafing, while hanging out in hallways and stairways amounts to loitering and idling.

"Such acts are prejudicial to the interest of the service as it hampers the delivery of basic services to the public," Bragances said.

David earlier issued a memorandum terminating the "no lunch break" policy for BI employees rendering frontline services.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - June 18, 2012
11th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1K 21:1-16

Naboth, a man from Jezreel, owned a vineyard beside the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria. Ahab asked Naboth, "Give me your vineyard which is near my house that I may use it for a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange. Or if you prefer, I will pay you its price."

But Naboth said to Ahab, "Yahweh forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

So Ahab went home angry and sulky because of what Naboth had told him, that he would not give him the inheritance of his fathers. In the bedroom he lay with his face turned toward the wall and refused to eat.

His wife Jezebel came to him and said, "Why are you so angry that you refuse to eat?" He answered, "I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and asked him to sell me his vineyard or to exchange it for another letter; and he answered: 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

His wife Jezebel said to him, "Are you not king of Israel? Get up and eat and be joyful, for I will give you the vineyard of Naboth of Jezreel."

So Jezebel wrote letters using Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and important persons living near Naboth. This is what she wrote in the letters, "Declare a fast and put Naboth on trial. Get two scoundrels to accuse him of this sin: 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

The people, the elders and the important persons who lived in his city did as Jezebel had instructed them in the letters she sent to them. They declared a fast and put Naboth on trial. The two scoundrels fellows came in and sat facing him, accusing Naboth before the people, "Naboth cursed God and the king!" So the people took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent word to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned and was dead.

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, she told Ahab, "Now take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the man of Jezreel who refused to sell it to you, for Naboth is now dead." So when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he went down to the vineyard of Naboth and took possession of it.

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you this: Do not oppose evil with evil. If someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Reflection

Joy Eduvala is the oldest law in the world, and Jesus quotes it in today's gospel. Or rather, once upon a time, many centuries ago, this was the law in the world. Then someone got a bright idea: Why not make it more humane? Why not make it so that the punishment fits the crime? Why not make it so that the loss of an eye, for example, is not followed by the loss of two eyes, or even by the loss of a life? Why not make it so that the punishment is proportionate to the crime? Why not make it so that the punishment is not worse than the crime? Why not make it so that the punishment is not worse than the crime? Why not make it so that the punishment is not worse than the crime?

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RUN FOR HEALTH
Nearly 14,000 runners take off in Run United 2 organized by Globe Active Health and Bonifacio Inc. at the Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City yesterday. The second of a running series drew record numbers to the 500-meter dash, 3K, 5K, 10K and 21K runs. Run United 3 is slated for Sept. 16 while the Run United Philippine Marathon will be held on Oct. 28.

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Syria no place to work–Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG yesterday urged people seeking employment out to head for Syria—now said to be on the verge of civil war—as the government was engaged in getting all Filipinos already there to return home.

The Palace made the appeal after the Department of Labor and Employment reported that 900 Filipinos are arriving every month in Syria—where the violence has continuously escalated—in defiance of a Philippine government ban.

The workers were found to have been illegally recruited.

"The thrust of our government now is to get our people out," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said over public radio dzRB.

"Please don't add to the problems and concerns of our officials there because the situation there is very risky," she said.

She said that those wanting to go abroad as overseas Filipino workers could choose safer places by applying through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

RAISE HIM LITE, RAISE HIM RIGHT

With the increasing availability of video game consoles and junk food, raising a physically fit child can be a challenge to parents. You have to take extra steps to make sure you raise them Lite, raise them right.

Regularly check his BMI-for-age.

Body Mass Index (BMI)-for-age is an estimate of the amount of body fat in proportion to your child's height, weight, and age. It is a screening tool, and not a diagnostic tool, to check if your child is overweight or not. It is recommended to still consult your pediatrician to get a good assessment of your child's health. To measure his BMI-for-age:

- Get your child's latest weight and height. Make sure the measurements are accurate.
- Then input the data, including your child's age and gender on this online BMI-for-age site:

Make sure he's physically active.

Children nowadays are prone to have a sedentary lifestyle. Encourage your kids to be physically active, so they can exercise, go out, and meet other kids.

- Set a limit on the number of hours your child spends with his computer, video game console, and other gadgets.
- Make sure he plays sports and other games that require him to be physically active.
- You can also do these physical activities with your child for more family bonding!

Make him eat right.

Good nutrition starts with proper eating.

- Make sure your child eats balanced meals.
- Try to include fruits and vegetables every meal.
- Keep healthy snacks available for your child.

Give milk that fits your child's nutritional needs.

If the result shows that your child's BMI-for-age is above normal, it means that he may not be physically fit. Along with ensuring an active lifestyle and balance nutrition, give him a milk product that will help manage his condition. NIDO® LITE is a lite milk specifically made for kids. It is nutrition-packed with 80% less fat* and 30% less calories*.

Good eating habits and lifestyle are things he can carry with him until he grows up. These are things that will not only benefit him now, but also in the future. So parents, make the right choices. Raising a physically fit child is in your hands.

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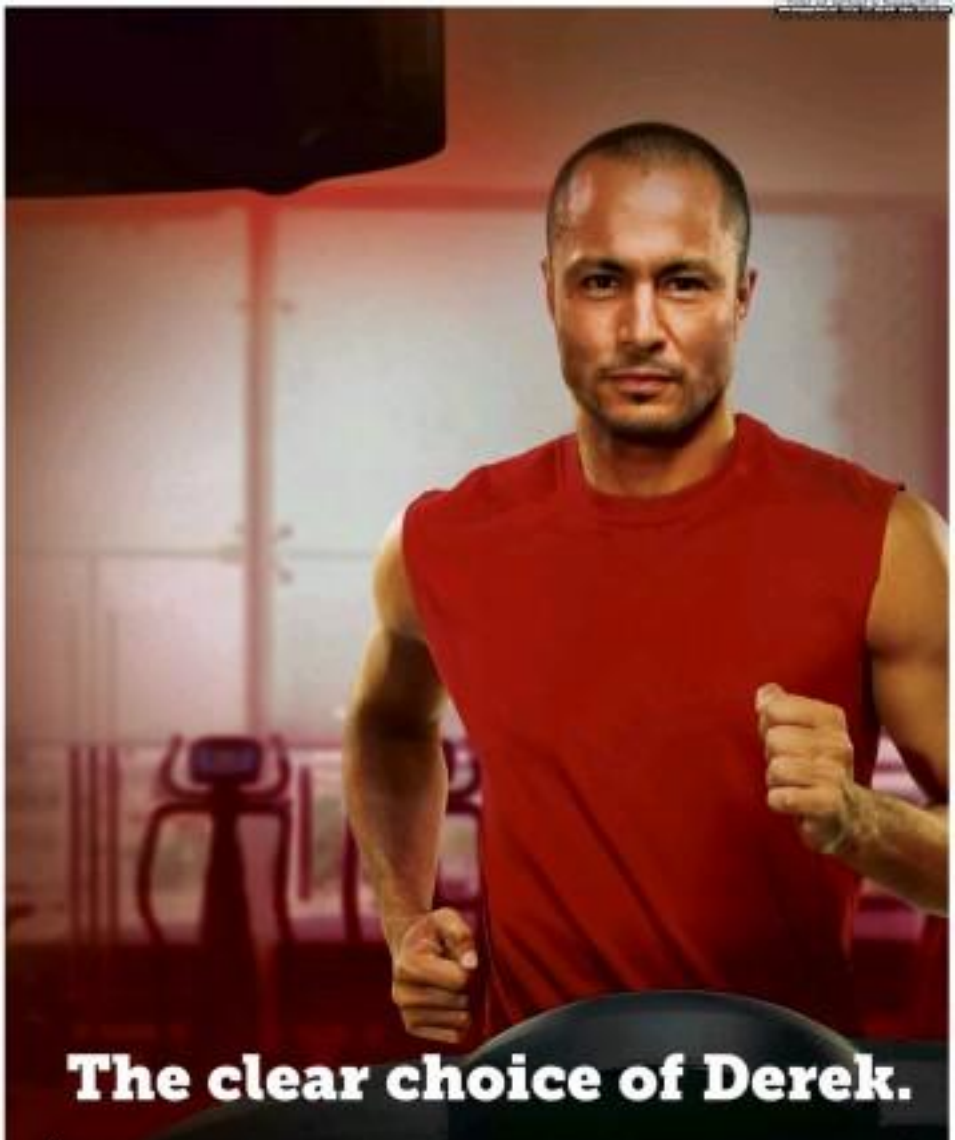

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Assistant Editor Tony Bengcoja

Across the NATION

Jordanian journalist, crew kidnapped, says professor

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Malacañang and authorities in Sulu still would not confirm reports that Jordanian journalist Baker Abdulla Atyani and his Filipino companions Ramelito Vela and Rolando Letrero were abducted in Sulu.

This despite the claims made by Abubakar Sisay University (ISU) Occasta Dimaampo, himself a former kidnap victim, that Atyani's group was indeed kidnapped.

"What I know is that the group had been kidnapped. They whereabouts or which group is responsible? That is still being verified," Dimaampo, who is based in Sulu as member of a local counseling group, said.

Atyani, Dimaampo chief of the Al-Amin Haya News Network in Southeast Asia, and his group were scheduled to leave for Manila on June 13, a day after their arrival on the island province of Sulu.

But Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said it was not correct to say that Atyani and his crew were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf after they disappeared since leaving their hotel on Tuesday.

"We can't even put the incident in that category yet. They are still considered missing and efforts are being extended to locate them," Valte told government radio dzRB.

Valte stressed that the Palace continues to monitor developments of the case and are in touch with Sulu government officials.

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo also admitted receiving the same information, but stressed time and duration was needed. "I spoke with Julu Mayor Hamin Amin and Gov. Abdusakur Tan and it's not true that Atyani and crew were kidnapped). It's true the three are missing but there is no confirmation that they were kidnapped," Robredo told the Inquirer by phone.

Dimaampo, however, said authorities "are in denial."

"They are allergic to reports of abduction. First, they don't want to be blamed for the incident. Second, they refuse to acknowledge that there is indeed a big problem in so far as dealing with the armed groups which most of them have protectors and benefactors," said Dimaampo, who was among those kidnapped along with television news anchor Ces Drilon and her two crew members in 2000.

In the early days of his abduction, authorities did not consider Dimaampo as among those kidnapped as he was the one who arranged the interview with Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron. Dimaampo said instead of bringing them to Sahiron, his local contact identified as Jamril Biyaw brought them to another group that held them captive.

"Based on what I have gathered, there were contacts and prior appointments with the armed groups in Sulu that supposedly had arranged the interviews [with an unidentified Abu Sayyaf leader] for Atyani. Unfortunately, the two contacts came late to the Ehdis State College) hostel, but they (Atyani's group) were given word of assurance from the armed group. Unknowingly they were betrayed," Dimaampo said.

A military intelligence source said a certain commander Isnan Sudoray Alih was holding Atyani's group. "No pronouncements were made regarding ransom demand, but may yes come soon. The group and the victims are believed to be in Bridal room," the same source said.

Col. Jose Jesiel Cruzabra, deputy commander for operations of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao and head of the Joint Task Force Sulu, admitted receiving the same information from various intelligence sources in Sulu. "But this information about this Alih is not yet fully verified, it is just one of the many information being spread around here.

"There are many information, but all of these are without confirmation," Cruzabra said.

Cruzabra said Atyani's group may have moved out of Indanan town in Sulu. *Jaclie C. Kilpala, Inquirer Mindanao, with reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila*

Nigerian nabbed for swindling

A NIGERIAN national was arrested in an entrapment operation in Cavite for selling fake visas to two Kenyan students in Cebu City.

Supt. Romeo Salenga, chief of the Cavite police intelligence branch, on Thursday said Thomas Magnus, 40, a resident of Barrio, Dasmariñas, was arrested at around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday inside a branch of a money transfer courier in Barangay Molino I, as he tried to claim some cash that his victims had wired to him.

Salenga said two Kenyan students named Elgyle Wende and Sijin Elias Omiti, both 23, and students of the Sacred Heart University in Cebu, had filed a complaint at the police Provincial Public Safety Co. in Cavite against Magnus.

Salenga said Magnus introduced himself as an employee of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation and offered to help the students to renew their expired visas for a fee. Salenga said the two students had paid more than P100,000 but later found out that the visas Magnus had gave them were fake.

Salenga said Magnus offered to replace the fake visas and attempted to regain collect money from the students which led to the police entrapment.

The police filed charges of estafa and swindling against the Nigerian. *Marlowe Llanes, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DAR denies landowner's petition for CARP exemption

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Coming on the heels of President Aquino's pronouncement that he would speed up land distributions to the farmers, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has denied the bid to exempt from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) a vast estate owned by a landlord from Quezon.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes, in a June 11 order "denied for utter lack of merit" the application for exemption filed by Michael Gil Marino and Cesar Matias Jr., owners of the 1,029-hectare estate in barangays Rizaguinsad and Calingag in San Francisco, Quezon.

"The land is suitable for agriculture and it is presently occupied and tilled by farmers ... the application for exclusion is clearly unmeritorious," said the order, a copy of which was furnished the lawyers by the Ellazar ng Maglalakad ng Bondoc Peninsula (EMBP).

"We're all happy with the DAR decision on Hacienda Matias," Maribel Lunaria, EMBP president, said over the phone from Lucban.

She said the DAR decision is a "small victory" for the Matias tenants.

On November 2010, the Matiases filed the an exemption from CARP coverage declaring their land to be a "woods."

The Matias family could not be reached to comment on the ruling.

Lunaria said they also welcomed De los Reyes' declaration that the DAR would amend the controversial DAR Administrative Order No. 7. The order regulates or limits the scope of land to be distributed under CARP with its issuance and Bolivian (Carpe).

COMELEC DISMISSES ELECTION PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNOR TALIÑO-MENDOZA

Married to: Congressman Raymund Democrito Mendoza
TUCP Party list
Father: Nestor T. Taliño, Mayor, Carmen, Cotabato
Brother: Roger Ryan J. Taliño, Councilor, Carmen, Cotabato
1998: Elected 5th Provincial Vice-Governor (Serving as Official Board Member / Province of Cotabato)
1998–2001: Elected Senior Board Member 1st District, Province of Cotabato
2001–2010: Elected Congressman/ Representative of 1st District of Cotabato Province
2010 up to the present: Governor of Cotabato Province

On June 7, 2013, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) First Division issued an Order dismissing for lack of merit the election protest case filed by Emmanuel Piñol against (North) Cotabato Governor Emmylou "Lala" J. Taliño-Mendoza.

It may be recalled that Taliño-Mendoza was declared the winner in the gubernatorial race of (North) Cotabato during the May 10, 2010 Automated National and Local Elections after garnering 258,986 votes over Piñol's 198,332 votes or a difference of 57,934 votes from the 4,384 established precincts grouped into 912 clustered precincts of the province.

However, Piñol filed an election protest with the COMELEC, Manila on May 21, 2010 identifying 1,280 established precincts or 278 clustered precincts in the 16 municipalities (there was no protest for any precinct in the Municipality of Tulunan) and Kidapawan City of the province alleging massive: cheating, electronic fraud, vote-padding, vote-buying and harassment of voters.

In the Order of dismissal, the COMELEC found that there was "no prima facie merit in the election protest" as the protestant had not established reasonable recovery from the recount or revision on the 20 % pilot precincts identified by Piñol himself. With such dismissal, the COMELEC effectively precluded the revision/recount of the remaining 80 % of the protested clustered precincts as clearly the revision/recount over the pilot precincts shows that the protest has no merit and bases. This is consistent with COMELEC Resolution No. 9183 and Resolution No. 9164 finding no need to proceed with the revision/recount of the remaining 80 % of the protested clustered precincts as clearly the protest has no merit and bases. The COMELEC stated that Piñol "failed to establish the merit or legitimacy of his protest from the pilot precincts" he had selected under a belief that his claim was meritorious as to the rest of his claim. In effect, the inevitable conclusion is that there were no irregularities in the counted and transmitted results of the elections as the results of the physical count of the ballots reflect that of the transmitted results and protest in the Election Returns and SOVP contrary to the assertion of Piñol that there were massive cheating, electronic fraud, vote-padding, vote-buying and harassment of voters.

During the revision/recount, Piñol submitted as pilot precincts 76 clustered precincts in the Municipalities of Magpet, Pikit, Kabacan, President Roxas, M'lang and Carmen pursuant to the order of the COMELEC dated May 31, 2011 for initial revision/recount consistent with Resolution No. 9183 and Resolution No. 9184. Under the said resolutions, the petitioner is required to identify pilot precincts constituting at most 20 % of the protested clustered precincts and in no case exceeding 250 clustered precincts or less than 20 clustered precincts. The intention is for the COMELEC to determine the merit and legitimacy of the protest based on the pilot precincts before deciding on whether there is merit and propriety in revising/recounting the remaining 80 % of the protested clustered precincts.

The revision/recount of the 56 pilot clustered precincts was eventually held on September 5 to 9, 2011 at the PMO Work Area, COMELEC, Manila. The results of the revision/recount showed the following statistics:

Votes per Election Return/SOVP	Taliño-Mendoza	- 20,483
	Piñol	- 2,707
Votes per physical count	Taliño-Mendoza	- 20,417
	Piñol	- 2,758
Votes gained per physical count	Taliño-Mendoza	- 14
	Piñol	- 1
Total valid claims	Taliño-Mendoza	- 219
	Piñol	- 99

Based on the results of the revision/recount of the 56 pilot precincts identified by protested Piñol, it was proven that there no were irregularities in the counted and transmitted results of the elections as the results of the physical count of the ballots reflect that of the transmitted results and protest in the Election Returns and SOVP. The increase in number per physical count is due to the fact that there were some ballots (votes) which were not counted by the PCOS due to the nature and character of the shading. This is the same reason for the total valid claims as these votes refer to those ballots which were not properly read (and counted) by the PCOS. All told, protestant Piñol was not able to show that there substantial irregularities from the 20 % pilot clustered precincts subject of the manual revision/recount of the ballots sufficient to overturn what was reflected therein as the true will and choice of the electorate in the Province of Cotabato which was counted, transmitted and printed in the Election Returns and SOVP during the May 10, 2010 Automated National and Local Elections.

In dismissing the election protest against Governor Taliño-Mendoza, the COMELEC First Division stated that "On the final analysis, with the information gathered from the recount proceedings demonstrates the protestant failed to establish the merit or legitimacy of his election protest from the pilot precincts he so selected in the belief that the same would exemplify his claim. We find no more need to proceed with the recount of the rest of the protested clustered precincts." The June 7, 2013 Order was signed by Presiding Commissioner Rene Y. Sarmiento and Commissioners Armando C. Velasco and Christian Robert S. Lim.

Governor Taliño-Mendoza expected the results as the dismissal of the baseless protest of Piñol is really reflective of the true will and choice of the electorate in the Province of Cotabato during the May 10, 2010 Automated National and Local Elections. She said that nothing could change the fact that she was given a resounding approval by the electorate during the said elections. A baseless protest coming from Piñol who was defeated soundly and by a very wide margin could not alter those results as the claim of election fraud is a malicious tactic and diversion to veer away from such fact of defeat. As Governor Taliño-Mendoza thanks the Almighty God for the dismissal of the election protest against her, she also extends her deep gratitude to all her supporters, leaders, well-wishers and her entire constituency in the Province of Cotabato for giving her this mandate and opportunity to serve under her program "Sa Isiyong Tabal".

A SCAVENGER walks on a sea of garbage in Dagupan's open dump at Barangay Bonuan Gueset, just a stone's throw away from the Bonuan beach.

BCDA: Perjury charge bogus, proof reveals John Hay fraud

BASING CITY—The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) on Sunday said a final evidence that the buyer of a log home, which is the developer of Camp John Hay gave up to settle its debts in 2008, still held proprietary rights over this asset at the time it was offered as payment to the BCDA.

It is this detail which led to the conclusion that Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), owned and chaired by businessman Robert John Sobrepeña, may have defrauded the government, the BCDA said in a statement.

It was issued as a reaction to the June 14 perjury charges filed by CJHDevco against BCDA president Arnel Patrick Casanova for pursuing the fraud charges against Sobrepeña and his firm on March 9.

Casanova's complaint in the Department of Justice (DOJ) said CJHDevco included Lot 2, Block Number 9 of the Forest Trace of Ametica for among the assets it turned over to the government as part of its May 27, 2008, dacion en pago agreement (the act of relinquishing assets to a lender or creditor to settle an obligation).

The BCDA found complains said the house had been bought by William Ito when it was counted as one of the dacion-en-pago log homes.

The agency said the BCDA would not have cautioned P36,004,499 of CJHDevco's outstanding debts "had it known that CJHDevco had sold the unit to another person on 1998."

The BCDA had included in evidence CJHDevco's Official Receipt No. 14074, dated July 27, 1999, that was issued to Ito in order to acknowledge the P20-million downpayment for the log home.

The dacion en pago was a provision of a 2008 reorganized lease agreement.

But CJHDevco rescinded this lease agreement in 2011 to pursue arbitration, leading to a controversial dispute with the BCDA, this now first submitted with the termination of the Camp John Hay lease on May 16.

The BCDA, however, has not enforced another order—issuing CJHDevco from Camp John Hay pending clarification from a court here on a preliminary injunction it imposed on the agency.

"[The] BCDA executed due diligence and did not deliberately and willfully omit facts when it filed the latter's complaint against Sobrepeña and other responsible officers of CJHDevco," the BCDA statement said, quoting the agency's lawyers Jesse Joe Custodio II.

"Based on all the pertinent documents available to [the] BCDA at the time the [fraud] complaint was filed on March 9 ... there was ample factual and legal basis to support the criminal case," it said.

CJHDevco said an irregularity was present when the log home was handed to the agency according to the firm's perjury complaint that was filed at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Manila by Manuel Ubarra is, CJHDevco vice president for litigation.

The perjury complaint included a May 16 affidavit issued by Ito, which said he had demanded a refund in 2001 and 2005 after he decided to abandon the purchase of the log home.

The complaint said Ito's statement asserted that no refunds took place because the log house was assigned to the dacion en pago without any legal encumbrances.

However, Custodio, in the BCDA statement, said a CJHDevco joint venture partner published in the DOJ showed that "CJHDevco represented the P20-million purchase price paid by Ito only on May 18, the same day that Ito executed his affidavit in favor of Sobrepeña."

"Obviously, this perjury complaint against [Casanova] is intended to divert BCDA's efforts in holding CJHDevco accountable for its wrongful omissions," Custodio said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Dagupan fears garbage crisis

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—The first thing Mayor Benjamin Lim had intended to accomplish when he first became mayor in 2001 was to solve the city's mounting garbage problem.

But when he finished his second term six years later, the problem was still there.

Since returning his post in 2010, Lim is still struggling to find a lasting solution to the city's environmental woes.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), the agency tasked with implementing Republic Act No. 9003 (the Ecological Solid Management Act), has order at say date the closure of the city's 50-year-old open dump inside Tri-Jolligan Regional Park in Barangay Bonuan Gueset here, the mayor said.

The law, which took effect in 2001, bans open dumps and requires communities to build and operate sanitary landfill facilities.

"If the national government is going to close that, then we are dead the following day because I don't know where to dump our waste as of now," Lim said.

Blueprint's miscarriage

This city's garbage problem could have been resolved had Lim's cold waste management blueprint not miscarried. With P49 000 already a law when he first became mayor in 2001, Lim began meetings on waste segregation in the city's 31 villages. The city government acquired a 32-hectare property in the hilly village of Aero in Los Baños town to host the sanitary landfill.

Setting up a sanitary landfill within city limits was not possible because of its dwindling supplies and swamp terrain.

The project in Nasi Jerusalem was soon shelved, however, due to objections from the community, but Lim said he would revive plans to develop the Aero lot as soon as he convinces residents to allow him to proceed.

He said the other hurdle to the project is its cost. "You need P200 million minimum to can be pleased from the Urbanite (CDC) experience [with developing a sanitary landfill]. Where do I get the P200 million to operate the sanitary landfill?" he said.

The NSWMC website says only the cities of Urdaneta and Alaminos have sanitary landfill facilities in the province. The rest still operate controlled or open dumps. NSWMC records show that of 1,614 local governments in the country, only 38 have sanitary landfills, 66 have started developing their ecological landfill facilities, 394 operate controlled dumps and 645 continue to use open dumps.

At a May meeting of the League of Cities of Pin Philippines in Puerto Princesa City, Lim urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to divide the local government into clusters and propose where a sanitary landfill. Bicol government may share its old to built.

Garbage decree

"I tell you, nobody wants garbage in their backyard. (That's why) it has to be forced. It has to be pushed by the national government so that there will be no complaints," he said.

He said the national government should also ensure the construction of the facilities.

"Pressuring me that there are 88 sites in the country that will be funded by the national government at even P200 million each, it's still small, as against the hundreds that these could create to the communities," he said.

A cluster-level landfill would make the facilities viable, he said.

"Our garbage (in) Dagupan is 120 metric tons (of sand waste). [Our] residual waste (of about 60 MT is, a small in viable if it's only our garbage that will be thrown in a landfill. We need at least 400 MT and we need to get garbage from other towns," he said.

But in the absence of national government funding, Lim said the city government would partner with a private group for the construction of the city's sanitary landfill in Aero Asin.

He said two firms had started exploring the idea because "a sanitary landfill is (a) very good business [since you] can charge tipping fees."

Woman trying to smuggle illegal drugs nabbed

CEBU CITY—A woman is now detained at the police station in Tagbilaran City in Bohol after she was caught attempting to smuggle in illegal drugs hidden in her bra inside a jail facility.

Anabel Rapin, 23, a resident of Tayabasan, will be charged with possession of dangerous drugs in violation of Section 11, Article 2 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act today.

Rapin was about to visit her friend, Rosario Illanes at the Tagbilaran jail in Barangay Cahuyon at about 2 p.m. on Thursday when a female guard found four capsules of Kalkin under her bra.

Kalkin is a brand of sulbutiamine hydrochloride, a regulated analgesic which is abused by drug dependents.

SPO1 Rolando Bagtolan, police investigator, said Rapin was subjected to body frisk, a standard operating procedure for visitors of inmates.

But the officer found that she had hidden the Kalkin ampules wrapped in a cellophane under her bra.

Bagtolan said Rapin didn't answer questions during the police investigation. But he said the suspect could have been meant for Illanes, who has been under detention for possession of illegal drugs. Phoenix Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

NOTICE

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OPINION

Yellow over Inkfluenza

Hope for farmers

PRESIDENT AQUINO has vowed to fully implement his mother's 24-year-old Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in two years. He had earlier met with farmer leaders and Catholic bishops for two hours in Malacañang. Farmers, many of whom had marched from the Visayas and Mindanao, were in Manila seeking the full implementation of land reform. Apparently the meeting so impressed the farmers and the bishops that they called off their farmers' strike. The farmers were "very happy," said Christian Monsod, legal counsel of the farmers. "He (the President) opened new doors."

EDITORIALS

Launched in 1988 by the late President Corazon Aquino as the centerpiece of her social justice program, CARP was extended for another five years in 2009 with a total allocation of P150 billion. It is now called CARP Extension with Reforms (Carper). With Carper set to expire on June 30, 2014, the government is now scrambling to fully implement it. How to meet the deadline will depend on what "Oxcon" or open in order to substantially implement the law and on government's willingness to use the measures through.

For openers, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine National Police would be mobilized for the distribution of 1 million hectares of land, comprising some of the country's prime agricultural estates yet to be covered by CARP and but distorted them to ensure "the peaceful and orderly installation of farmer-beneficiaries of all lands under the program." The priority, the spokesperson further said, would be landholdings 25 hectares and above. For these lands, notices of coverage will be issued on or before the end of 2012, he added. Land under 10 hectares will be issued notices of coverage by July 2013.

It appears the targets are practical and sound. By putting all the lands in question under notice of coverage, government will ensure the implementation of Carper beyond 2014.

But Lacierda is mum on how to energize the Department of Agrarian Reform to meet the government's self-imposed targets. The farmers and the bishops have after all displayed in a letter to Malacañang that the DAR has been "consistently underperforming." Moreover, it's only now, three years after Carper was passed, that government is coming around to really implementing it.

Lacierda said that the government would "save trust" allocating P30 billion every year, which is what the five-year extension law sets. The Aquino administration set aside P16.37 billion for 2013 and P17.8 billion for 2012. By the budgets alone, it could be gleaned that government has been falling short of the Carper mandate. The tale of the tape says the Carper deadline wouldn't be fully met in two years. Still, we hope against hope that it would be.

Justice delayed at SC?

THIS IS another glaring example of justice delayed, justice denied. And it is timely to discuss it now that the Supreme Court is under intense scrutiny and a new chief justice, who is supposed to usher in its first justice is meted out barely any reason really is being chosen.

It concerns the illegal dismissal case of Lot S. Gonzales, an employee of Solid Cement Corp. The case has been dragging in the Supreme Court for the last 13 years. The irony is that Gonzales has already won his case in the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and the only issue is how much Solid Cement should pay him in back wages and other benefits. It is the Supreme Court itself, the highest court of the land, that is delaying the case.

Gonzales' misery started in 1999 when his employer, Solid Cement Corp. of the Cemex Group of Companies, a multinational corporation, illegally dismissed him from his job. The dismissal letter did not even state why he was dismissed. Gonzales filed an illegal dismissal complaint before the NLRC.

The arbiter and the NLRC decided that Gonzales was illegally dismissed and they ordered his reinstatement and payment of full back wages and other benefits. Solid Cement and Manuel Cemex appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals which affirmed the NLRC decision. Was death Gonzales' salvary was over? Not by a long shot. Solid Cement appealed to the Supreme Court which also affirmed, on March 9, 2005, the decision of the arbiter, the NLRC and the Court of Appeals. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court resolution did not specify the components of Gonzales' back wages, allowances and other benefits. Neither did it compute the exact amount that should be paid to Gonzales.

Thus, when the case was remanded to the arbiter, the latter computed the back wages, allowances and other benefits due Gonzales in the amount of P803,614.16. The NLRC subsequently modified this by increasing the monetary award to P2,808,398.84. Solid Cement and Gonzales filed separate petitions for certiorari in the Court of Appeals and these were subsequently consolidated.

On May 31, 2011, the Court of Appeals issued a decision denying Gonzales' petition on the sole ground that the Supreme Court resolution issued on March 9, 2005 was already final and executory. It ordered the reinstatement of the arbiter's order.

Gonzales filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court, but the Second Division, through a minute resolution, hastily and without basis denied the petition. Gonzales filed a motion for reconsideration and at the same time wrote a letter to then Chief Justice Renato Corona, explaining that the Second Division erred in denying his petition. However, nothing happened because the motion for reconsideration was also denied by the Second Division. Gonzales filed a motion for leave to file and submit a second motion for reconsideration and a motion to refer the case to the Supreme Court en banc. This is at present pending in the high court.

Indisputably, the Supreme Court resolution of March 9, 2005 did not specify the components of Gonzales' back wages, allowances and benefits. Neither did it state the specific amounts due Gonzales. Thus, in accordance with NLRC Rules of Procedure and prevailing jurisprudence, the arbiter and NLRC checked out during the execution proceedings the back wages, allowances and benefits to their money equivalents due Gonzales.

During these proceedings, Solid Cement actively participated and even admitted that Gonzales is entitled to some benefits and allowances. So when it filed its petition for certiorari and other pleadings before the Court of Appeals, it limited its issue to the tax treatability of judgment.

Since it was the Court that issued the resolution, couldn't it have easily and correctly computed this according to its expressed terms and meaning? However, the Court blindly mandated the arbiter to do this. Thus, on June 2008, it reminded the Court of Appeals decision that Gonzales is entitled to back wages of only P712,375. This is contrary to Article 279 of the Labor Code, which provides that an illegally dismissed employee shall be entitled to full reinstatement with full back wages, benefits and allowances or their monetary equivalent to be computed from the time he was illegally dismissed until the time of actual reinstatement.

Gonzales suspects that his case was tailor-fitted. The case had been assigned to ponente Justice Antonio Brion. The same justice, in a recent and similar case Session Delights Ice Cream and Fast Foods vs. CA, SLRC et al., (GR 171148, Feb. 8, 2010, 611 SCRA 118 of which he was also the ponente), ruled that the computation of back wages of an illegally dismissed employee shall not violate the immutability of judgment.

Does the Second Division of the Supreme Court know how to correctly interpret a simple resolution? If the Supreme Court cannot correctly interpret its own simple decision, how can we expect it to interpret complicated laws? How can it appropriately and impartially dispense justice?

I'M STILL terribly pissed off by it and won't let go of it without a, well, fight.

There's a glimmer of light amid all the gloom.

One is Greg Boatogs' decision to leave the rankings of the fighters as they were before Timothy Bradley "won" against Manny Pacquiao. The standings were: Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather were tied at No. 2 (in No. 1), with Pacquiao ahead of Bradley at 147 lb. Ring Ratings had a number of options after the fight, but decided in an unprecedented move to retain the rankings.

Its reasoning was that: "Pacquiao outlasted Bradley even if Stan and Hard didn't see it ... To take the opposite approach would be giving too much credit to a shameful performance by the judges." Greg Dunbar, editor of RingTV.com wrote frankly, and: "I don't think Pacquiao should be punished because of two dumb-ass judges. It dominated an emotional point-for-point contest fighter in his prime."

Two is that the WBO will act on Bob Arum's complaint and review the fight. WBO president Francisco Valcarcel announced this last week, saying five "recognized international judges" will conduct that review and make a recommendation. Arum has been vociferous about the unfavorable result, a fact that many see as an effort on his part to distance himself from suspicions he had a hand in it.

The Nevada Athletic Commission has been throwing obstacles in that path, pretty much agreeing with Duane Ford's assessment that "I thought Bradley gave Pacquiao a boxing lesson, I thought a few of the rounds were close." A flying lesson by the highlights, all of which belonged to Pacquiao (just name to Bradley fans), or the same judge argued that judging a fight is not like judging "American Idol," which includes audience participation. Which insulted all the very serious and boring organizations who all, or nearly all, had Pacquiao winning the fight, the least of them by eight points. It only he utter blindness, never mind an indicted one, Ford and C.J. Ross should be banned for life from any sport.

Postscript

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"It puts boxing in a very horrible light," said Arum. "If the commission in Nevada will be indistinguishable, and won't cooperate, we have to have a federal commission. We have no issues with these are on the commission, how they got there, how they operate. Something is broke."

There are problems there, however. Palicat of Ronald" added when he announced the review that the WBO does not doubt the ability of the judges. And while the review will look into the correctness of the judging, it will not look into the competence of the judges. And the review is not expected to result in disciplinary sanctions. What it is likely to do is find a mistake-free, harmless egregious, to an honest one, and order a rematch.

In order to make such as many questions, even as to discovery, have demanded?

Not at all.

Nothing short of the decision being reversed will do for us. A rematch merely exacerbates the crime. It's exactly the same thing as changing the rankings of the fighters. It will give him an approval to a shameful performance by the judges. It will allow Ford and Ross to go free. Yes, more than that, it will allow them to profit from their misdeed.

Pied revenue the decision, then have a rematch. Or since Bradley never won the fight, give him another crack at the title. Or since all that depends on what other opinion Pacquiao has—Juan Michael Marquez is waiting at the wings, said Roach's always ominous to consider—consider giving him another crack at the title.

If ever we need to be united on anything, we need to be united on this. When Jaime recoil in horror at the world's, both boxing and non-boxing, inability despite shrill calls for a review, to be pissed off by this. Articles on it continue to roll the decision unanswered. Dunnit being fouled by Gibbons as he drove to the basket in the dying seconds of Game 2 is unanswered. Kidot being ruled a non-Pacquiao going Bradley shoving boxer is not.

And some have been patronizing about our outrage, dishing out amused barbs about our exaggerated sense of wounded pride. Well, it's not about nationality stupid, it's about justice. It's not about pride, morons, it's about fairness.

My own uncultivated advice is that if the decision isn't reversed, Pacquiao should retire. At the very least, it should punish those who conspired and continue to conspire in saying "rankao." The case had been assigned to the arbiter by the decision of the Court of Appeals and these were subsequently consolidated.

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Life as message

BURMESE (MYANMAR) opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi finally delivered Saturday her Nobel Peace Prize address—more than 20 years "late." Back when it was awarded in 1991 by the Nobel committee "for her nonviolent struggle for democracy and human rights," Suu Kyi was at the height of global prominence. She had led the National League for Democracy in dealing Burma's military junta a crushing electoral defeat. But the junta refused to recognize her victory and placed her under house arrest. As a result, she wasn't able to go to Oslo to receive the prize herself: her husband, Michael Aris (a professor of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies at Oxford) and her two children, Alexander and Kim (who grew up largely without her) received for her the award.

She could have left Burma to join them in Europe and perhaps deliver her Nobel address. But she didn't because she would have surely been barred from going back to Burma. As a result, she had to deprive herself of tending to her family and generally enjoying the peace of exile. In 2009, Aris died of prostate cancer without her, underscoring the private pain that comes with public commitments.

So when she finally delivered her Nobel address, Thorbjorn Jagland, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, could only praise and thank her "for your fearlessness, your tenacity and your strength." He said, "Your life is a message to all of us."

K to 12 lengthens the suffering, increases the burden

IT'S true that the Philippines is one of the few countries that have only four years of secondary education. It's also true that with a conservative figure of 21 students per teacher in high school, the Philippines has currently the worst teacher-student ratio in the secondary level of education in East Asia and in the Pacific. Malaysia and Singapore have 15 students per teacher; Thailand 19, Indonesia 12, and Vietnam 18.

It likewise cannot be denied that the Philippines allocates a measly 2.6 percent of the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the total education budget in contrast to Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore, which allocate more than 3 percent. Vietnam, on the other hand, allocates more than 5 percent, while Malaysia spends close to the ideal of 6 percent yearly. Industrialized nations spend on average 6 percent of their GDP on education. The lack of adequate budget and resources has consistently been cited as the root cause as the main reason for the deterioration and demoralization of Philippine education. (All data cited represent the latest available from Unesco.)

Worse, the setting of the Beyond Kingdom of Tangkou in the cartoonish "The Princess and the Philippines" is not far from the truth that which the Philippines will undergo under the so-called K to 12 program. In 2013, Bloom lengthened secondary education from four to six years. It may be a passive country than the Philippines in many respects but it seems to share a better sense of educational priorities. In 2009, two years before its true 10-6, but in 2008 this was reduced to 23.8 years with the additional two years of secondary education.

Having learned nothing from Tangkou, even as it implements K to 12 (which, the Department of Education estimates, will cost P190 billion), the Philippine government has made no significant increase in the education budget as a whole and instead improving such important indicators for quality as the teacher-pupil ratio.

But the fundamental question to Does the Philippines really have to undergo such a wrenching set to its years? A study by Felipe and Orbeta in 2010 has shown that the deplorable, bottom-rung showing of the Philippines in international math and science tests is not the result of merely having a shorter education cycle. It was demonstrated that students from countries such as Russia, Latvia, Hungary, Italy, Egypt and Iran with even shorter elementary cycles than the Philippines were easily able to surpass the Filipino fourth- and eighth-graders. It was also demonstrated in another study that while Malaysia and Brunei had longer education cycles, the Philippines had actually allotted longer hours of instruction time per subject. But these longer hours of instruction did not translate to higher scores. The opposite results of the other countries could probably be better explained by the higher percentages of GDP (current) for education as a whole and their use of more computer-feasible national languages in math and science. The varied country experiences indicate that longer periods of schooling do not necessarily translate to higher quality.

The supposed "shortage" of time in teaching is simply not as urgent as the other major shortages that have plagued Philippine education for decades. The notion that the curriculum needs to be "decongested" implies that there is not enough time to learn everything that must be learned. But who or what dictates this "everything" that supposedly must be learned and the number of hours it must be taught?

In defense of K to 12, DepEd explains that the Philippines must lengthen secondary education by two years in order to comply (at least on paper) with "international standards" set by treaties such as the Bologna Process and the Washington Accord. The explicit principal intent of the Bologna Process is to make European universities "more competitive" internationally in drawing foreign (especially Asian) students. Ironically, our "compliance" with it is intended to make us more globally competitive" instruments" of the educational "products" that they offer. This has obviously nothing to do with developing the Philippine economy per se but is geared to catering to international professional standards that supposedly require 12 years of basic education for the practice of professional careers.

Rather than spreading further the education budget for this big project, the state should concentrate its efforts and budget in basic education by improving quality, building science education, scholarships, and establishing centers for teacher and community training education. But to certain that K to 12 will not raise the quality of Philippine education and will only lengthen the suffering of students to a miserably underfunded extent. The additional two years will also constitute an additional and insupportable burden for the majority of poor families struggling to put their children through high school.

Finally, K to 12 will not redound to the benefit of the Filipino people because it firmly puts foreign interests before our country's development priorities and educational needs.

Sarah Raymundo is general secretary of the Congress of Teachers Educators for Nationalism and Democracy-University of the Philippines Diliman (CTEND-UP) and assistant professor at the center for International Studies in UP Diliman.

COMMENTARY

Sarah Raymundo

Remembering Al-Barka

MAY MARKS are often shared brilliant victories and heavy campaigns. Some are about incompetence and stupidity resulting in the unnecessary loss of lives of both friend and foe. In his book "Fiasco," Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas E. Ricks writes about America's tragic bungling in Iraq. He dedicates his work "for the war dead" and quotes Sun Tzu, noted Chinese military strategist: "Know your enemy, know yourself. Don't fear one hundred battles, one hundred enemies."

* * *

And in case the Armed Forces leadership may have forgotten, today marks the eighth month of the massacre of our soldiers at Al-Barka, Basilan. It was on Oct. 18 last year that 19 army troopers were killed by MILF elements led by Commander Dan Asnawi. Some were captured and tortured, their bodies mutilated, and their heads cut off. It was one the most of honorable combatants. It was the worst loss of life by a single military unit in more than a decade. Yet, we are still waiting for the new opportunity to commit similar atrocities.

It is not as though it was the first incident of this nature. In July 2007, 14 Marines were also killed in Al-Barka. They suffered the same fate as the army troopers—torture, mutilation and beheading. There was much bellicosity and promises of retribution then. Some troops were deployed to the area, some were bringing in a contingent of Presidential Security Group (PSG) units. But nothing much happened. I recall that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Army commander then, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, to meet his headquarters from Fort Bonifacio to Zamboanga in order to supervise more closely military operations. After awhile, the whole incident was forgotten and General Tolentino moved back to Fort Bonifacio.

All in all, we have lost 23 men and officers at Al-Barka. To date, 41-Basilan remains enemy-controlled territory or, at the very least, some kind of safe haven for MILF elements. I have often wondered why the AFP has not seen fit to station any of its units at Al-Barka to maintain much of the area under siege, but as a symbol of control and commandeer a piece of territory for which as much of the blood of our soldiers has been spilled. It should be remembered that in 2000, during the administration of President Joseph Estrada, the government decided to assert its authority over MILF camps through a military campaign that resulted in the capture of Camp Abubakar in Mindanao. It did not end the MILF insurgency, but the objective was to prevent the conversion of those camps within the country into separate territories controlled by the enemy.

After the October massacre, there were maneuvers from two of our tactical leaders that I have kept in mind for the past eight months.

First, President Aquino declared "all-out justice"—I presume, for our soldiers.

Second, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, in a press conference in Zamboanga City vowed to capture Dan Asnawi.

So far, on both counts, we have failed. We have instituted, instead, impartial proceedings against our officers for disobedience of orders and dereliction of duty. And we have not gotten hold of the MILF criminals involved. There is little or no indication that we are making serious attempts to apprehend Asnawi and company. I say this because unlike the efforts to locate and kill terrorists roamed by the United States, we have not put up any rewards for Asnawi's capture; we have no made use of smart bombs that are never used in the attacks on Al-terrorist leader Marwan in Sarang, Yala, last February.

Why this apparent hesitancy or lack of resolve in conducting operations against Asnawi and his men?

There is any number of possible reasons. But perhaps the most plausible is a desire of our leadership not to endanger the ongoing peace talks. Unfortunately, our unwillingness to confront the issue head-on now only be taken as a sign of weakness, a sign of appeasement. The MILF refusal to surrender Asnawi and our silence on their defiance send out the wrong signals and indicate that we are not prepared for the hardships and the sacrifices needed to assert the national resources.

The lesson from the past is that peace talks do not solve our problems. In fact, they embolden the enemy, giving it time to consolidate its forces and increase its weaponry. In 1995, we made peace with Nur Misuari and his MNLF, only to see them go on a campaign a few years later. We can sign another peace treaty with the MILF. It will not guarantee peace.

I have said this in the past—the only guarantees of peace to Filipinos, the only way to defend our territorial integrity is to have a strong and disciplined Armed Forces, certainly one that will not allow the brutal murder of its soldiers to go unpunished, one that can protect the people from invasion, local or foreign, so as to enable them to live in peace and security.

Recent developments in the West Philippine Sea have highlighted the weakness of our Armed Forces. Many foreign military observers have characterized the organization as "decrepit," meaning feeble or frail. Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario on his meetings with US officials in Washington, openly confirmed what everyone else knows: We are in no shape for any kind of confrontation with our neighbors. And we have only ourselves to blame for this sorry state of affairs, attributable to AFP modernization programs, selling off military bases for this purpose. Where did all the money go? Shouldn't we have some kind of accounting of these funds as we attempt to upgrade our military capabilities?

Let me offer some food for thought. We cannot confront China militarily. Diplomatic efforts, together with the Asean and the international community, represent our best chance for some kind of peaceful resolution. The real threat to our national sovereignty comes from within. Muslim secessionists continue to embrace the vision of an independent homeland. A peace treaty is only one more step along the way toward this ultimate objective.

The only realistic deterrent is a strong Armed Forces supported by our people.

* * *

In 1977, Singapore Cadet 6464, Lim graduated at the top of his class at the Philippine Military Academy. The following year, in 1978, another Singapore cadet, No 5. Ho, also finished number one in his class at the PMA. Both cadets were awarded the Presidential Saber by President Ferdinand Marcos.

This year, Singaporean Gan Tze Min likewise became the first foreign midshipman to graduate at the top of his class in the 167-year history of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya, of the first district of Cavite and current chair of the powerful House appropriations committee, graduated from the US Naval Academy Class of 1988. Recently, Abaya provided free immunization for retired AFP officers and their ladies at Camp Aguinaldo. He is the son of former Rep. Florido Abaya, PMA Class of 1959.

Shooting buddies it need not be

THE SECOT chief Justice need not be old. Malacañang's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda says. How about that for a change, isn't it? In fact, the chief justice need not be a lawyer. They added that leaving our chance to have a woman chief justice in Cecilia Muñoz Palma many, many blue-in-moons ago, that is certainly something we can agree with.

But she need not be a shooting buddy either. Let's put it this way: That is the era of the "disqualification," right? And that supposedly straight path should also lead to an independent judiciary, shouldn't it? The road to Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment and subsequent conviction, in fact, began when a foreign trip of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was blocked by the Supreme Court under Corona but was allowed right at the airport. The perception was (and still is) that this Court, under Corona, was beholden to the previous president.

When President Aquino appointed members to his Cabinet, a clear picture emerged. The choices were based on either one of three criteria: kaibigan (close friend), kaklase (former classmate), or kabarilan (shooting buddy). A fourth one, reportedly, was discarded when the public let out a howl: a friend of Mrs. Aquino's from the days of Makati Business Club. Or a friend of the wife of Makati mayor. But the chief justice is not of the same mold. His office is not a Cabinet position which calls for the builder to be endorser the President into "close up." The chief justice of any country is supposed to be an alter ego of the president. And there is no guarantee that being kaibigan, kaklase or kabarilan will result for the common good here. That is to put it mildly.

Pero: If candidates were nominated for chief justice before the Judicial and Bar Council, shooting buddies should be the last to be considered, Correct.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares, however, does just see it that way. On the contrary, she thinks she has the edge, and she revealed this belief of hers even when she has not still endorsed(s) at 20 plus. And Lacierda agrees with the perception.

Pill 1: Chief Justice Hon. Honores pro-desistere and opinions adverse to the Aquino administration! The question need not even be asked. After Corona, no room should be allowed for such speculation or possibility. The President and his minions should just humble out such possibility outright.

But Lacierda and the PCO spokesperson do not think so. Was the Corona impeachment then just a simple case of time no, advice no, and leave no no more? That is how it would be should the women with the edge, say, the shooting buddy who undoubtedly shares the has the edge, get that plum spot of presiding over the Supreme Court. And we can be sure that the removal of Corona from the Supreme Court was just for the same time.

What is it about Mr. Aquino's appointees that they have lost the virtue that is one of the leading guideposts along the "daang matuwid"? I am referring to the virtue of shame.

Ronald Llamas got caught with his hand in the cookie jar not once but twice. Land Transportation Office chief Virginia Torres was under heavy fire from both the agency's insiders and outsiders, quickly in all instances, the President came to their rescue and continued to back Mr. Mendoza and hold. Of course, both of them are shooting buddies of the President.

Sebastian can have many meanings. It is not, it is also discretion. But the best is this: Because it is also the most lacking in our cultural: a sense of ethics. It requires propriety of behavior than is the case with the law itself. Of course.

A government that is morally right and scrupulously clean in the face of corruption is a government that we all certainly desire. Incidentally, that is also the kind of government capable of promoting a national sense of difficulties. Kidnaps, we have! Disasters, we have! In the last two previous administrations. That is why we have "daang matuwid" now.

It should surprise us no more here much we have lost our sense of ethics. We do not even touch that sentence to the young by our example. Recently I witnessed a debate between two high school students in a small institution that taught children values. We often agree that what is necessarily legal may not be moral, that the end never justifies the means. That is because defendant is actually anchored on presently acceptable moral standards.

Presidential Aquino now has the chance to raise the issue of ethics of the nation by choosing carefully the next chief justice from among the four self-annointed nominees. If Senator Enrile the has the edge and if it is the who will get the post, we can be sure that that will be the end of "daang matuwid." Chances are, there will be the hotel chief justice will be tantamount to abuse of power and indiscretion by no less than the President himself.

With the successful impeachment of Corona, now is the time to start right. And delicadeza should be the starting point. The public would highly applaud Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Gringo Ejercito Li-ma and saving Chief Justice Lucinda Cargio should they reject their nominations. But more highly laudable it would be if the President does not appoint them.

Tahan sar supreme as presidential prerogative, ano.

* * *

Comments to antonioreyes@gmail.com

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Dr. Antonio J. Montalvan II

Where are the Syrian peacemakers?

HONVER—Much has been said about the resultant rift between the choice in Syria and the Indian wars of the 1990s. But while the prolonged killing may indeed be reminiscent, the political and diplomatic effort that finally ended the war in Bosnia hardly is evidence today.

Today's challenge is not unlike that earlier one the Contact Group plan that was hammered out in the summer of 1994 by representatives from Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States, and implemented the following year in Dayton, Ohio, after months of on-the-scene diplomacy. In Syria, the only diplomatic effort to date has been the Annan mission, if belaboured, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who has understood—better than many analysts of this latest international outrage—that any lasting political settlement must not be a triumph of one side or the other.

No one can watch the ongoing violence in Syria without a sense of horror at the armed attacks on largely unarmed civilians, overwhelmingly by groups that support President Bashar al-Assad's regime. But those who say that Syria is on the brink of civil war miss what has become a more important point: the growing day Syria already is in a state of civil war, one whose battle lines were drawn months ago.

On one side is Assad's minority Alawite tribe, which over the years has retained secular bonds to share in the spoils of some party authoritarian control. Assad's coalition is broader than that, which helps to explain how he has been able to hold on to power while other regimes in the region have not. Syria's Christians, many of its 1.3 million Kurds, and even Damascus-based, secular classes have been disinclined to take up arms against Assad. In 2005, my country—though ruled by the rest of the world—as a center-left opposition that might not be supportive of military pluralism were to assume power.

At the core, characterizing as a civil war a conflict in a complex region runs a risk: ensuring that others will choose sides. Syria's civil war, in which Iran much broader ramifications, which could lead to a wider regional conflict. Given this looming threat, it is becoming increasingly clear that staying out of the Syrian mess may not be an acceptable choice for countries that have an interest in a robust and more democratic Middle East.

Domestically, the conflict looks increasingly like a proxy war between Iran and the Sunni Arab states, which regard their own minority Shia populations as a potential Iranian fifth column. Iran has sought to maintain its influence in the Levant (including in Lebanon and among some Palestinian groups) by providing substantial support to Assad. By contrast, many Sunni Arab states have provided varying degrees of support to the largely Sunni opposition, a bodyguards of groups that include the Muslim Brotherhood and other sectarian forces similar to Libya's anti-Gaddafi militias (notably).

Russia and China, bruised by their loss of face in the Sunni-led intervention in Libya in 2011, have sought to keep the international community out of Syria. Both countries fear that intervention—whether militarily or through economic sanctions—could lead to regime change in Syria, where they, especially the Russians, have been the dominant external players.

In the absence of concerted international action, the United States and Europe have largely sought to work toward accommodation of the party's constituents. The unprecedented number of Syrian refugees—almost 40,000 in Turkey alone—has highlighted the loss of life in an effort to choose that an into adopting a more amenable position.

But denouncing Assad as Russia is unlikely to produce results. Only a campaign in which Assad's followers that the Syria is on the side of the angels in the conflict. Likewise, professional support for dissidents, mostly known rebel groups, demands

for dead on arrival sanctions resolutions. Such has only for Assad's departure (as if he plans to take the advice), and half-baked ideas about establishing "safe areas" (an utter failure in Bosnia) are unlikely to spare many lives, much less bring about the endgame that is so desperately needed.

What is badly needed is a more serious and sustained negotiation among interested international powers. Let's call them a "contact group") on a viable political outcome. A "Contact Group Plan" should be carefully worked out with dreams and has many of the early years on the ground. It needs to have active support from Moscow, Most importantly, all of the plan's stakeholders then need to support Annan, publicly and privately. Publicly declaring support for Annan's executive plan, and then whispering to your leader that it is "toothless" or has unrealistic expectations will only undermine the whole effort.

Clearly, a new way forward is needed, and a good start would be a political/diplomatic plan that Annan could sell to the parties. In the Balkans, it was a G8 contact that finally sold the Contact Group Plan to the parties directly involved. Members of the opposition are never going to be reconciled because we had reconciliation support from every country that wanted to see the horrible conflict in Bosnia brought to an end. The same unqualified support is what Annan—the best diplomat we have on these issues—needs and deserves.

Project Syndicate

Christopher B. Hill, former US assistant secretary of State for East Asia, was US ambassador to Iraq, South Korea, Macedonia, and Poland. He served many foreign assignments, including as chief negotiator of the Dayton Accords, and the six-party talks with North Korea from 2005-2009. He is now dean of the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.

WORLD VIEW

Christopher R. Hill

You wouldn't trust yoga-columns, "Anahata," of editorial consultant Amando Doronila is not appreciating today. He is on vacation leave.—EB.

Who's to blame for abusive cabbies

LETTERS

It's BEEN six months or so since I decided to take more to get around the metro. These are my observations:

1. More taxi drivers don't know the way to go to some major, even well-known streets. The usual reason is they are just new to the job.

2. Many of the taxi drivers refuse to take passengers to destinations they they think would entail passing through too far traffic. I don't understand why; their income would be running anyway, and don't they supposed to get jobs through their company and/or owners inform a bad traffic is, at any given time?

3. Many drivers "shake, rattle and roll" to the accompaniment of loud, banging and crunching "music." Many taxis have seats with worn seams and unsafe protruding. Many taxis also run on "banged-up bodies" through rather "willing collies."

4. Many taxi drivers are surly, drive badly and don't understand Filipino, chattering they some from non-Filipinos speaking provinces. Many refuse to take passengers during rush hours.

5. In six months of riding taxis, only one driver gave me a receipt. The usual excuse for the inability to issue a receipt was that the machine doesn't work, or wants a few cents.

6. Twice, I got into a taxi with the driver drinking to high heavens, and his taxi looked like it had been involved days. I had to get off before I reached my destination or risk an infection or fainting from the stench.

7. Once I rode almost 300 taxis I had taken, only three were epic and open and had clean looking drivers.

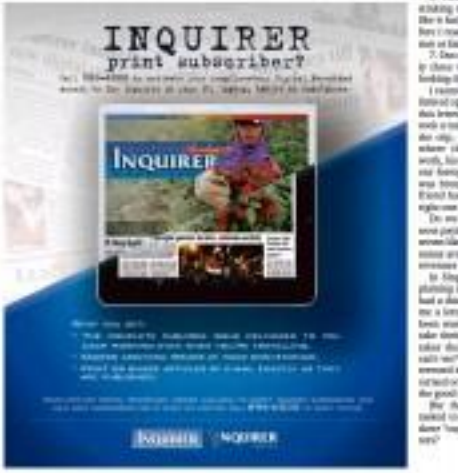
I cannot list down more offenses due to the limited space, but what prompted me to write this letter was a foreigner friend of mine who took a taxi to the airport and, in the middle of the trip, the driver told him he didn't have where the airport was. When that didn't work, his taxi suddenly stalled and he invited our foreigner friend to take another taxi. He was brought to the wrong terminal and my friend had to take another taxi to get to the right one.

Do we have a government body that prevent pricing gimmicks from "taxi abuses"? Is anyone like me don't care if a few of our taxi licenses are responsible for driving tourists and revenues away.

In Singapore, I swear, I never, once, complained about two taxi drivers who must have had a thing for Filipinos, and the polite smile on a letter telling me that the offenders had been warned and a second complaints would take their licenses away for good. Singapore takes their tourist trade very seriously. Why can't we? Many of our taxi drivers are only interested in making a fast peso and are not concerned or even aware of the damage they do to the good image of our country.

But the real culprits are those who are tasked to regulate the industry, but shouldn't there "regulate or a law" to regulate the regulators?

—SHIRLEY WILSON DE LA SALLE,
dellasalle@yahoo.com



Pursuant to Section 5 (j) of Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the Tourism Act of 2009, which provides that the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall have the power to formulate and promulgate, in consultation with the local government units, the private sector industries and other tourism stakeholders, rules and regulations governing the operation and activities of all tourism enterprises, including but not limited to a national standard for licensing, accreditation and classification of tourism enterprises,

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Safety sacrificed to allow more racers

OVERCROWDING OF races is getting to be the usual practice as the number of running and biking enthusiasts continues to grow. Unfortunately, overcrowding exposes participants to toxic, albeit avoidable, risks.

In a recent duathlon with me and bike segments, for example, four were seriously hit on serious injuries, like fractures and I crashed. By the time we crossed our last week 3–4 other casualties from previous bicycle crashes.

According to the organizers, the duathlon had around 400 registered participants, with 45% of them manning the race. With five injured riders, it means that 1 per cent of all racers were hurt during the event. I believe this was not a coincidence but was the direct result of this overcrowding.

The bike course was a 2.5 kilometer, two-lane route along Roxas Blvd. in Cavite, with 45% morning participants, it constituted a total number of 500 bike racers per lap of road. Consider, too, that these types of bikes—triathlon bikes, racers, and mountain bikes...were allowed to be used in the race and the participants included those who had minimal skill sets, biking at varying speeds from 30 kilometers per hour. Six laps were required to finish the race and bikers were travelling at top speed (40+ km/h) in opposite directions and sometimes passing inches from each other because of race course congestion. Accidents were waiting to happen and did occur—many of high speed, making matters worse.

Slower participants had to constantly avoid being hit by the faster riders and the very narrow two-zoned points also became accident prone areas. In addition to this, to the latter laps, private and emergency vehicles started the "closed course" with the bikers. This could have clipped by the panic over an ambulance coming from behind or inside the "closed course." Earlier, we had a close call when some private vehicles crossed our paths inside the "closed course" to enter their private driveways.

The accidents that occurred during this event were a wake-up call for race organizers to design courses that would safely accommodate both the number and type of race participants.

I am a holder of Cardio Instrument 70.1 (2005), Subic International Standard Distance, 10+1 and Indonesia team and I fully understand what is involved. I believe that the race where my friends got hurt was the most dangerous race I have attended. As enthusiasts of the sport, please let us patronize safety shows all-star.

I hope all stakeholders from race organizers, sponsors, and participants learn this lesson and accept only as many registrants as their course can safely accommodate. Bicycle races are not like a running event where the dangers of overcrowding are minimal. People can, and did, seriously get hurt.

—MARTIN REYNOSO,
martin_p_reynoso@yahoo.com

Another—but true—face of CARP?

CHRIS BONO might want to face the another side of the Philippines' agricultural problem. Perhaps one that shows how the program can be, and has in fact been, used to exploit the poor.

My late father, a lawyer, spent more than 30 years, sue for various poor Bagobiwan children of a retired general from deceased a piece of land of about 30 hectares located in Cabanatuan City. The children started with six father as his attorney's fee, and the rights were acknowledged by the court as evident. Because all co-owners had no money to pay for the reason tax, the land remained idle, except for a few parcels which Mr. Aquino, one of the children co-owners, allowed a farmer to till. This portion of about two hectares was the only tillable area owing, according to the farmer, the area's rapid encroachment, inaccessible to irrigation.

About 30 years later, the co-owners were upset to discover that the entire 30 hectares had been awarded for the Department of Agrarian Reform to a group of 13 farmers, among them the so-called time tenant. None of the owners were advised, nor took part in any hearing, and no award was ever left to the owners. Not even the portion allowed to the father as his attorney's fees was spared, which is consistent by

to serious injustice.

CARP was never interested to give land to the landless, it is meant to give to the landed so as those who have more in life. It takes away the little that remains with the poor in order that others may receive clearances. But so-called tenancy quite obviously resides the value of the land now that the city of Cabanatuan is progressing so well. CARP should never be used for greed but for justice.

—NOEL HERNANDEZ,
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Wong spotlighted the bully that is China

IN HIS opinion piece titled "Understanding China" (Inquirer, 6/6/11), Andrew Chiw Wong notes that China claims "what it calls the Nanquan Dao (South China Sea)" on the belief that it first discovered it, named it, and incorporated it into its territory." It is not a matter of discovering a place (occupying it first is the essential issue) or even naming it (Chinese sailors settled on Scarborough Shoal only recently, since it saw the potential of its area, why did it not name on the islands upon discovery?

Wong references to their historical chronicles will not hold in an international court, there is why China refuses to recognize the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. A unilateral decision is "politically risky" for China. It prefers a bilateral approach because it is confident that a puny Philippines is easier to deal with one-on-one. It is also assured that the US will not hold water in international law.

By China, the Scarborough Shoal is nonnegotiable. (The Taiwanese are building an airport in another island so that it can be available to explore for oil, it will be hard for China to use force to drive away the Taiwanese and destroy its facilities, as this would invite a direct confrontation with the United States.) China announced a fishing ban off Scarborough Shoal, even as its ships continue to do illegal fishing. China is in fact preventing Filipinos (not just fishermen) from fishing on the area.

Wong writes, "On the diplomatic front, China arrogantly insists on its own approach of avoiding disputes." Everything is unilateral for China—Taiwan's reunion, Chinese rights. But diplomacy means dialogue, not a one-way statement. China has to listen to the Philippines, just as the Philippines listens to China.

Wong also states the importance of agricultural exercises against the Philippines. Does this mean "threats" in Philippine "exercises are just a bare excuse? "China deploys its military might in war to the Philippines' most crafty provocative measures." It is China's military which is being provocative.

Wong uses the Western view of China "to help our Western nations ... to garner more synergies in engaging its neighbors as never seen, unless that sense how to its immense superiority... It is largely viewed as a 'bully' keen on pursuing preeminent Asian hegemony as symbolized by its assets..." All this is true. China is bullying the Philippines.

—HERBERT LOPEZ,
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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address, telephone number and e-mail address (if any). Anonymous letters will not be published.

'Rizal maps' given to public schools in Laguna

By Marisar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Each public school in Laguna province has a piece of local history to pass on to its walls.

It is a map cast just of Laguna's topography but also of "Rizal's Laguna," as it is called, that features the personalities, events and places associated with the life and works of the national hero, Jose Rizal.

Painted on a 2-by-3-foot glossy poster is the brightly colored map of Laguna, bordered on one side by a sprawling chain of lilies that represents Laguna de Bay.

Each of the 30 Laguna municipalities and cities is represented by icons of centuries-old churches, mansions and popular tourist destinations that a locality is known for.

On the left and right sides of the map are lists of little-known facts about the 17 towns and cities in Laguna where Rizal and people close to him had significant or important links in history.

"Even Rizal knew his local topography," said Provincial Board Member Ned Sicoco, whose office initiated the map project.

He said that during one of Rizal's travels to Europe, Rizal wrote to his family describing the size of Paris as stretching from Calamba and Cabuyao to Sta. Rosa in Laguna.

In the letter, Rizal used common modern cinema lines his own experience to describe foreign places, an indication of the hero's familiarity with Laguna's geography, Sicoco said.

"Children should grow up to be proud of their country and for that to happen, they should first learn where they come from," he said.

Sicoco, who chairs the provincial board's committees on education, tourism, history and arts and culture, and on public works, said the maps were "commemorative" of Rizal's 151st birth anniversary tomorrow.

THE RIZAL map

The first batch of the maps—500 to 600 copies—were handed out to Laguna's public school teachers during an orientation on the 8 to 12-unit lecture before the school year opened, Sicoco said.

Local history

While Rizal was closely associated with Laguna, particularly with his birthplace in Calamba (now a city), history books rarely mention his influence in or the influence on him of the other towns in the province, said Rogelio Ordoñez, the education program supervisor on social studies of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Laguna.

"The maps contain well-researched accounts (and) (these) historical places influenced by Rizal that you don't usually find in books," he said.

He cited for instance that from Paete came the three sculptors named Florentino Hidalgo, Hilario Ildefonso and Jose Cuenco who studied under Rizal when the hero was exiled to Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte.

From Bagumbayan lived one of Rizal's love interests, "the silver Leonor in his life," Leonor Valenzuela, who came from a local noble clan.

Rizal was said to have visited the Bagumbayan falls in 1882.

The "Rizal's Laguna" map was put together by a team of history teachers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños led by associate professor Dwight David Dizon.

The 17 Laguna towns and cities associated with Rizal on the map are San Pedro, Biñan, Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, Calamba, Los Baños, Bay, Pila, San Pablo, Nagcarlan, Liliw, San Pablo, Rizal, Magdalena, Sta. Cruz, Pagsanjan, Pakil, Mauban, Pakil and Siniloan.

Opalenicia said the maps would serve as visual aids for teachers in the public schools.

"Children learn better when you teach them with something visual. (The maps) help enhance their interest to learn specially subjects like history," he said.

DepEd said 321 elementary and 81 secondary public schools in Laguna have at least 240,000 elementary and 112,000 high school students enrolled this school year.

With the introduction of the K to 12, which now includes local history as part of the curriculum for students in Grades 1 to 3, the maps would also serve as basic teaching reference materials and resources for the new curriculum becomes available, Opalenicia said.

China hails PH pullout from Scarborough

From page A1

business, Zhang Hua, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy said: "We have noted the withdrawal of government vessels by the Philippine side. We hope this action will help ease the tension."

Zhang was referring to the removal by Manila of the Philippines and China caused by their territorial dispute over Scarborough Shoal, which Manila calls Panatag Shoal and Beijing Huangyan.

Zhang, also deputy chief of the embassy's political section, said "the Chinese side has been urging the Philippine side to take measures to deescalate the situation."

China's commitment

But Zhang did not say when Beijing would withdraw its supposed commitment to withdraw its vessels from the shoal, which China calls Huangyan Island.

As of Thursday, China had seven government ships around the shoal's lagoon and 20 to 30 fishing boats in the lagoon, according to the DFA.

The Philippines had no other vessels at the shoal. Filipino fishermen, however, were staying away from the shoal since the government declared a fishing ban in the area in May.

China has also declared a fishing ban to nearly the entire West Philippine Sea, including Scarborough Shoal, for China's fishermen to operate in the area in what Beijing calls "normal fishing."

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario announced the presidential decision to pull the two PNs.

"Where the weather improves, a reevaluation will be made," Del Rosario said in a statement from the DFA.

Still waiting

Del Rosario told reporters on Friday that China had agreed to withdraw all its vessels from Scarborough Shoal. "We are waiting for them to comply with their commitment," he said.

The government was still awaiting word on the Chinese withdrawal yesterday, according to deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Speaking on state-run dzRB radio, Valte referred to Del Rosario's statement to the press on Friday about a commitment from China to order all Chinese vessels out of the shoal. "That is the only one we are waiting for," Valte said.

Valte said the government's decision to withdraw from the shoal was taken in consideration of the safety of the crews of the two Philippine vessels.

She added: "There is no request from China to the Philippines to pull the vessels out. It was to make sure the lives of the (Coast Guard) and (the fishermen) personnel would not be endangered," she said.

'Reevaluation'

Asked whether the government would send the vessels out again should China refuse to leave Scarborough Shoal, Valte said she had to answer first, quoting Del Rosario: she said, "Once [the] weather improves, there will be a reevaluation."

The DFA, Office of the President, Department of National Defense, Coast Guard and the military will do the reevaluation.

Asked why a reevaluation was needed when the weather was the reason for ordering the Philippine vessels home, Valte said there was a need to look at it so "what sort of personnel" in the area was required. Scarborough Shoal is not the only part of the Philippine territory that needs to be watched, she said.

The defense department yesterday said that the withdrawal would not weaken the Philippines' position in its sovereignty claim over Scarborough Shoal.

Defense Undersecretary Pernia said that if the "only successful" was a search in the area, "there are many ways of monitoring."

He said the safety of the two vessels' crews was "paramount."

Easing tensions

Last week, the Philippines and China repositioned some ships stationed at the shoal, easing tensions that had been building up since early April.

The standoff began when the two ships blocked Philippine vessels in the area on April 8 to prevent the arrest of Chinese fishermen caught poaching sharks and collecting rare clams and corals in the lagoon.

Following consultations, Beijing recently sent government ships out of the lagoon. The Philippine government ordered the fisheries bureau vessel to move out of the lagoon.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda called the reduction of movements "a step in the right direction."

"This is an easing of tensions and we appreciate the gesture of both parties to deescalate tensions," Lacierda said.

There was no word from the Chinese Embassy in Manila about the next Chinese moves.

The weather improved a bit as Typhoon "Butchoy" continued to move away from the Philippines. But as of press time, there were no reports about the Chinese vessels leaving Scarborough Shoal.

'Undisputed territory'

Then newsbiz ago, Liu Weimin, the spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry, reiterated Beijing's position that the shoal "is China's indisputable territory, which has never been disputed."

"China's position on defending its territorial integrity is firm and steadfast," Liu said. "The Chinese side urges the Philippine side to concretely respect China's territorial sovereignty and withdraw its aggressive ships from the Huangyan Island waters as soon as possible," Liu said. With reports from Christine O. dumlaksic and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Suu Kyi: Nobel Peace Prize ensured Burma would not be forgotten

From page A1

other prisoners of conscience, both in Burma and around the world, other refugees, others in need, who may be suffering more even, she said, from oppression and from the huge world's 'compassion fatigue.'"

It was a remarkable moment for the slight Suu Kyi, who turns 67 next week and is now a member of parliament and the leader of Burma's opposition.

She was dressed in shades of purple and lavender, but her ankle-length batik flowers. It is a pattern she makes in honor of her father, Gen. Aung San, an independence hero of Burma who was assassinated in 1947, when she was 2, but whom the mainstream dressing flowers in the batik are not.

The audience in Oslo's City Hall, which included the first foreign royal family featured rapidly applauding often, standing to clap when Suu Kyi entered the hall and when she finished her speech. Her speech was the same time modest, personal and touching...an appeal to put practical ways to reduce the suffering of the world.

"Suffering degrades, crushes and ravages," she said. "What is the only answer to where peace is denied to death."

Absolute power is an unattainable goal, she said. "But it is one toward which we must continue to journey, our eyes fixed on it as a traveler on a desert's June has eyes on the one guiding star that will lead him to salvation."

She also brought much of the Buddhist idea of "dukkha," or suffering, to her long years of isolation and house arrest, first by the military regime that ruled Burma for decades and then by the latest junta's "compassion fatigue."

It was a remarkable moment for the slight Suu Kyi, who turns 67 next week and is now a member of parliament and the leader of Burma's opposition.

She was dressed in shades of purple and lavender, but her adorned with

Appellate court orders arrest of 8 policemen

From page A1

reone the resolution of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that recommended the filing of a multiple-murder case against the policemen.

In overturning the lower court's dismissal, the appeals court said that "there is ample evidence and sufficient basis on record supporting a finding of probable cause."

The court described the judge's decision as "a stab to judgment without deliberate evaluation of the evidence from both sides demanded by a full trial."

Trinity's sister, the court said, is "at best, a conjecture as to her supposed basis." A "full-blown trial," the court said, "is to be preferred to ferret out the truth."

Associate Justice Noel Tijam wrote the decision for the Court of Appeals Eighth Division. Associate Justices Romeo Barza and Edwin Sorongon concurred with his resolution.

Ordered arrested

The court ordered the arrest of Chief Inspectors Lawrence Cajipe and Joel Mendoza; Insp. Gerardo Sulamoren; Police Officers 3 Julito Wamasino Jr. and Fernando Dey-Gapoy, Police Officers 2 Eduardo Blanco and Nilo Santos; and PO1 Joel Bay Lacanaa.

"[Gerua] gravely abused his discretion in dismissing the criminal case filed against the [policemen] for lack of probable cause on the ground that the evidence tends to show that they acted only as members of a blocking force during the shooting incident which led to the death of the [de Veras]," it said.

The case against the policemen stemmed from the complaint filed in the DOJ by De Vera's wife, Lilian, who claimed that the policemen were involved in the killing of her husband and daughter.

Moral intel agents

But Inquirer sources said De Vera and his daughter may have been killed by agents of the Naval Intelligence and Security Force, whose involvement in the police operation was never explained by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In her complaint, Lilian de Vera said her husband and daughter were in the family car when the gun battle between the policemen and the robbers happened.

The shootout happened at Elated Pacalioga Subdivision 4 in Barangay Marcelo Green, Paranaque, on the night of Dec. 5, 2005.

Lilian said her husband and her daughter were going to fetch her in Pasay City when the policemen fired at them repeatedly, apparently mistaking the family vehicle for one of the robbers' getaway vehicles.

When the shooting stopped, the bullet-riddled body of De Vera was found slumped over a parked passenger jeepney, where he reportedly tried to take cover.

His daughter's body was found in the family vehicle, which had more than 80 bullet holes.

Nowhere other people, including eight suspected robbers and a policeman, were also killed in the gun battle.

On Dec. 28, 2009, the DOJ recommended the filing of criminal charges against the policemen, but Trinity ordered the dismissal of the case for lack of probable cause.

What Went Before

IN MARCH 2011, the Department of Justice ordered the filing of murder charges against 25 policemen involved in a shootout with suspected robbers in Parañaque City in December 2008.

State Prosecutor Gerwan Allan Mariano based probable cause to indict the policemen for the death of Alfonso de Vera, 53, and daughter Liz Alfaro, 7, who were among the civilians killed during the shootout.

No bail was recommended for Supt. Jonathan Calibuyo; Chief Insp. Fermin Cabe, Senior Insp. Abraham Abarentos; Inspector Arthur Asuncion and Ludivino Cardenas; Police Officers 3 Hagen Torres, Jericho Ocasio, Guilbert Lopez, Felix Bass, Eugene Pajad-an and Policarpio Jose Jr.; and Police Officers 1 James Padong, Allan Apil, Elvin Amparoan, Lloyd Bolayugan, Nemario Gano and Darwin Macalandag.

All belong to the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF).

Also charged were Chief Inspectors Lawrence Cajipe and Joel Mendoza; Insp. Gerardo Balanayan; Police Officers 3 Julito Mamasino Jr. and Fernando Dey-Gapoy; Police Officers 2 Eduardo Blanco and Nilo Santos; and PO1 Joel Bay Lacanaa, all belonging to the PNP Highway Patrol Group (HPG) Task Force Lizada.

Then Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, who headed the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), described the encounter as the "bloodiest Tet Offensive on the police and criminal elements in Metro Manila."

Witnesses said the De Veras were killed by agents who apparently mistook their Isuzu Crosswind XUV for one of the getaway cars of the robbers. Initial findings showed that about 80 bullets hit the De Veras and their vehicle.

The other civilians killed were Ojeway employee Renante Bandin, Jessirey Bannayan, Ariel Macahiwas and Steward Tongol.

On Dec. 5, 2008, suspected members of the Wanay Wanay and Dacnay gangs engaged policemen in a shootout in a subdivision in Parañaque City. At the end of the 40-minute gun battle, 16 people lay dead, including 14 alleged robbers and 2 civilians.

Officers from the EPG, SAF, NCRPO and Southern Police District were sent to Dusit Thani Manila Subdivision 4 following a tip that a warehouse of loot here. Transport Co. in the subdivision would be robbed.

On Dec. 11, 2008, the National Police Commission (Napolcom) said the PNP violated the rules of engagement when it killed its own Bicolano cop that would have protected civilians from an ambushed shootout.

The Napolcom also noted there was no ambulance on standby to attend to those who would be hurt.

On Feb. 17, 2009, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which was conducting a separate probe, threatened to cite in contempt 32 SPG officers for failing to attend a public hearing on the shootout.

Two days later, the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) charged nine SPG officers with grave misconduct and neglect of duty and eight others with dishonesty for giving false testimony.

PO1 Elpherr Calupan was charged with grave misconduct and dishonesty after it was discovered that a bullet recovered near the slain De Vera's head was fired from Calupan's .45 cal. pistol.

Calupan had told the IAS that he was 15 kilometers away from De Vera's vehicle at the time of the shootout.

On April 1, 2009, the policemen charged by the IAS appeared at a CHR public hearing but invoked their right to remain silent.

In a resolution dated Jan. 5, 2010, the CHR found that police officers committed multiple violations of human rights in the shootout and recommended the filing of charges against several police officers.

It said "basic rights were ignored" on the night of Dec. 5, 2008, "not because the civilians in the area were mistaken for criminals by the police" but because "they were presumed to be criminals." Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

Greece elections pose a crucial dilemma

GREEKS will have to wrestle with a crucial dilemma when they go to the polls for the second time in as many months on June 17 to elect a new government.

The outcome could determine whether Greece sticks with the austerity blueprint crafting that is required under the terms of an international bailout — or rejects the harsh austerity measures in favor of the rest of Europe.

If Greeks choose the latter, they risk engulfing their country in chaos, which would likely indicate more pain as an economy already in its fifth year of recession.

The uncertainty in Greece has been hanging over global financial markets for months, and analysts say Sunday's election may not lead to a quick resolution.

But the election will help determine whether the financial crisis that has plagued Europe for more than two years is slowly coming under control — or about to get much worse.

Here are some questions and answers on the Greek election and why it matters to the rest of the world.

Why is Greece back in the news?

In a nutshell, the June 17 vote is being seen as a referendum on the euro.

Greece received in March a second multibillion-euro rescue package consisting of loans and debt restructuring. This bailout came with strict tough austerity measures, such as hefty cutbacks in public sector pay and pensions, that the country is struggling to meet.

The spending cuts have left the economy mired in a deep recession. Angered by the austerity pain, Greeks overturned away from the two traditional parties — conservative New Democracy and socialist Pasok — in elections last month. They voted instead for more radical parties that have vowed to end the austerity cure of the bailout and austerity agreements.

But if the country renounces its bailout terms, Greece's international partners could stop providing the cash it requires to stay afloat, the country's banks are likely to collapse and Greece could be forced to abandon the euro currency.

What would happen to Greece if it left the euro?

No country has ever left and there are no precedents in the European Union's rule book for pushing any country out. But if Greece left the euro, it would then have no choice but to start printing its own currency — the drachma — to pay its way.

With a more-or-less 1:1 exchange rate, the drachma would be much cheaper for foreigners.

Greece is such a small economy. Why does its membership in the euro matter?

True, Greece's economy makes up about 2 percent of the euro zone's overall economic output. But if Greece falls out of the euro zone, investors will become nervous about whether other financially shaky countries, such as Italy, could also leave.

That fear would likely drive up borrowing costs for those and other countries, potentially to levels that would require them to seek international bailouts. Europe would be ravaged in a vicious circle.

The European banks that hold much of the continent's government bonds would become significantly weaker and more reluctant to lend to one another. This could spark off a credit crunch like the one that followed the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers.

This problem could be made even worse by savers and investors taking money out of banks in shaky economies and moving it to banks in countries such as Germany or even out of the euro zone altogether. This could further destabilize the banking system.

What could happen on June 17?

Market watchers and other European politicians are worried that Syriza, which came second in the May election on an anti-austerity ticket, might do better this time around. Alexis Tsipras, the party's charismatic leader, has vowed to cancel Greece's international bailout agreement if he wins.

But Pasok and New Democracy have vowed to try to renegotiate parts of the bailout to ease the pain. Tsipras has said he would give the two parties a chance to do so.

Isn't Pasok and New Democracy have vowed to try to renegotiate parts of the bailout to ease the pain. Tsipras has said he would give the two parties a chance to do so.

But last week Moody's Investors Service said it was considering cutting the ratings on Greek banks after the renegotiations. However it has had the opposite effect.

Worried about the extra load on Spain's debt the bailout loan terms for Ireland and Portugal fought shy of Spain's all week, sending its borrowing costs to the highest level since the country joined the euro in 1999.

Three years have been also felt in Italy, which is struggling to maintain its huge debts as its economy falters. Italy also saw its borrowing costs rise this week when it went to the markets as all its debt. AP

Euro future hinges on cliffhanger Greek vote

From page A1

austerity measures could see heavily indebted Greece booted out of the euro currency amid the crisis itself ripped apart.

A Greek exit from the single currency would heap further pressure on two far larger European economies — Spain had already received up to 100 billion euros to save debt-riddled banks and Italy could be next to seek a bailout.

The last opinion polls published before a two-week pre-election ban showed the radical left Syriza party of Alexis Tsipras running neck-and-neck with the conservative New Democracy party of Antonis Samaras.

But no party is likely to win enough votes to form a government on its own, meaning a coalition will have to be formed to avoid the need for another election.

Inconclusive elections on May 6 resulted in no party winning enough votes to form a government, and coalition talks collapsed after 10 days.

Last month's vote, which also saw the ruling socialist Pasok party plunging to historic lows, sent a very clear message that Greeks had lost patience with the deep austerity measures imposed in return for the country receiving billions of euros (dollars) in rescue funds from the eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF and the European Union have insisted that the continuation of the 110 billion euro bailout agreed last year for Athens must be fully accepted by a new government or funds would be cut off, driving Greece into bankruptcy and potentially unleashing chaos in financial markets around the globe.

Radical proposals

Tsipras, a 37 year-old former student activist, has vowed to tear up Greece's bailout agreements and repeal the austerity measures, which have included deep spending cuts on everything from the health care system and infrastructure, as well as tax hikes and reductions of salaries and pensions.

But Tsipras' pledges, which include canceling planned privatizations, introducing hefty and rolling bank rests on minimum wages and pensions, have horrified European leaders, as well as many Greeks.

Opponents argue that the increasingly vocal young politician is out of touch with reality and that his policies will force the country out of the euro and lead to poverty for years to come.

Tsipras was a virtual unknown outside of Greece four weeks ago. But his campaign promises and his party's strong showing in the May 6 elections, in which he came a surprise second place and quadrupled his support since the 2009 elections, have put him in the international spotlight.

Scores of journalists and television crews across Europe descended on the world podium for space to cover Syriza's leader casting his ballot in an Athens polling station.

'A road to hope'

"We have learnt that today we open a road to hope," Tsipras said after voting, adding that he was confident of victory.

"Today we open a road to a better tomorrow with our people united, dignified and proud. It is a Greece of sound, fairer and prosperity as equal member of a Europe that is changing. It is a type of the peoples and of solidarity."

The young left-wing leader has received his share of attempting to terrorize the population by casting him as the man who will ruin the country. He has vowed to keep Greece with in the euro — something that repeated opinion polls have shown almost 80 percent of Greeks want.

Greece has been dependent on the rescue loans since May 2010, after sky-high borrowing rates left the country locked out of the markets and unable to afford the huge debts it had run up during years of profligate spending and falsifying financial data.

The spending cuts made in return for the loans have left Greece mired in a fifth year of recession, with unemployment spiraling to almost 22 percent and tens of thousands of businesses shutting down.

Many voters are also furious with New Democracy and the now severely weakened Pasok, blaming them for decades of corruption, waste and inefficiency.

"It's the first time I felt depressed after voting, knowing that I voted again for those who created the problem, but we don't have another choice," said 66-year-old Zoghlia resident Kosta Lazaropoulos.

"I voted for the bailout because these are the terms that will keep us in Europe," she said.

Greasier calamity

The 81 year old Santorini has cast Sunday's choice as one between the euro and returning to the country's old currency, the drachma.

The boss warned that a rejection of the IMF/EU bailout terms would mean a return to the drachma and even greater calamity for Greeks who are bitterly angry over repeated rounds of tax hikes, slashed spending and sharp cuts in wages.

Five years of recession and more than two years of acute crisis have started to fray the edges of Greek society, underscoring its severest test since the end of the military dictatorship in 1974.

The streets of central Athens are scarred by repeated waves of protests, some hospitals are short of vital medications and reports of suicides caused by the crisis have become commonplace.

Although he voted against Greece's first bailout in 2010, when his party was in opposition, Samaras hailed the second bailout agreed on late last year.

Now Democracy's leader has vowed to renegotiate some of the terms of the accompanying austerity measures, but he insists the top priority is for the country to remain in Europe's common currency.

"The main thing we will decide on is the drahma, euro or drachma," he said during his final production rally in central Athens on Friday.

"Today the Greek people speak. Tomorrow, a new era for Greece begins," Samaras said after casting his ballot in a small room in southern Greece, the first of the main politicians to do so.

Warning to Greece

European leaders had cautioned that Greece could be left outside the 17-nation eurozone if it pulls out of its bailout commitments.

Newly elected French President Francois Hollande weighed in on a Greek television interview earlier this week that "if the impression is given that the Greeks want to move away from the commitments that were taken and abandon all measures of revival, then they will be countries in the eurozone that will want to end the presence of Greece in the eurozone."

Nearly 10 million people are eligible to vote in the country of about 11 million people. Polls close at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT), with official results expected a few hours later.

The political party gaining the most votes wins an automatic 50-seat advantage in parliament, but neither New Democracy nor Syriza expect to win an outright majority and whoever emerges as top party will have to build coalition negotiations with smaller groups.

Scenarios

But whatever political party wins power may find its room for maneuver closed.

Leaders say Santorini told Real it had to govern for long with an empowered Syriza protesting at the gates.

If he wins, Tsipras will inherit a country on the verge of bankruptcy. He has ruled out a government of national unity and promised to nationalize banks and halt privatizations.

Whatever, despite the insistence of EU leaders, some adjustment of the bailout terms may be inevitable if Greece is to cut its public debt amounting to 160 percent of its gross domestic product.

"It is a scenario I see as likely and if that is the condition presented for Greece to stay and then more on, I would say it is probably something that should be considered," Angel Gurria, head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, told Reuters in an interview.

Preparing for the worst, central banks from Tokyo to London are marshaling arsenals to defend banks and financial systems against any jurisdiction turmoil. The Greek election result is expected to dominate a meeting of the Group of 20 world economic powers on Saturday and Tuesday in Marseilles.

Finance officials in the countries have discussed limiting the size of withdrawals from ATM machines, imposing border checks and introducing extreme capital controls as a worst-case scenario. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

Without kickbacks, 'jueteng' thrives, says lawmaker

From page A2

administration," Bentley told the reporters.

"Since they can't get their money from pork barrel projects anymore, some are turning to DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) and the Road Board. They encourage jueteng to keep their lifestyle."

Cash cows gone

Bentley said the citizens' Implementation Public Works Committee (IPWC) is a cash cow that is being killed by the Aquino administration.

He said road projects used to provide congressmen "with their piggy from pork barrel projects."

"But when Secretary Singson pegged the maximum cost of building roads at roughly P5 million per kilometer, they lost their cash cows. If their contractors could not do it for that amount or less, Secretary Singson has eliminated contractors that can do the work," Bentley said, explaining why road projects had lost their allure under the Aquino administration.

"This is the reason jueteng and masiao are flourishing because those people have to sustain their lifestyle with another income," he said.

Bentley is believed to be the second-richest member of the House of Representatives after Misamis Oriental Rep. Jose Ma. Ancog III, who is also known as Manny Pacquiao.

Jueteng can be stopped

Cavite Rep. Joseph S.A. Abaya said the DPWH's reforms had borne fruit in the first two year's of the Aquino administration but he could not say whether the rise in jueteng could be directly linked to anti-graft from the administration.

"Generally, teh jueteng should be stopped and can be stopped. My father, former Representative [Ed] Abaya, a former PCSO [Philippine CHARITY's] director, is adamant it can be stopped because they were able to do it while [he was] in the service," Abaya said.

Philippine Rep. Antonio Alvarez said: "If P-Noy's efforts to curb corruption are affecting the livelihood of some influential people, then the option for them is to cause political chaos or change cavers."

Alliance of Concerned Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio disagreed that pork barrel commissions from road public works projects had dried up.

"There new reforms and reinitiatives may still be subverted by unscrupulous politicians. DPWH-sanctioned and contractors. Hence, pork is still a principal source of kickbacks. The push to drive up jueteng profits is more likely due to the rising costs of running for political office," Tinio said.

IN THE KNOW

AT LEAST seven chiefs of police had been sacked in the past two months as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) cracked down on police officials who failed to curb "jueteng," an illegal numbers racket, in their areas.

In March, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo ordered the relief of the chiefs of police of three towns in Camarines Sur linked were Chief Insp. Benjamin Segovia of Calabanga town, Chief Insp. Ely Campomanes Jr. of Pili and Senior Insp. Victor C. Arzaga of Ocampo.

They were removed from their posts after members of the DILG's Office of Internal Security launched simultaneous raids in the three towns on March 22 and arrested 10 people manhandled by Town. chance-hearing Corp.

The DILG cited reports claiming favoritism was earned by alleged gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda of Pampanga. Favoritism was reportedly had a franchise from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to operate small town lottery (STL) in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon.

Those arrested earned STL identification papers as agents for their jueteng operations, according to Robredo.

The head of the Mississippi City police, Senior Supt. Ramon Rosco, was sacked in April after the National Bureau of Investigation raided a Mississippi house where jueteng duties were allegedly being held regularly, and arrested 16 people.

Earlier this month, the police chiefs of three municipalities in Negros Oriental were ordered relieved for failing to stop the proliferation of the illegal numbers game therein. They were Chief Insp. Bonifacio Diolola of Tanjay City, Inspector Orville of Dauin, and Insp. Deogracias Lorico of Valencia.

Jueteng is a game where winning combination is derived from the three-a-day draws of the three digit lotto games run by the PCSO. — *Inquirer Research*

Source: Inquirer.net

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Late SPORTS

Petron stops B-Meg run

By Mayong B. Castillo

TRAILING control early and finishing strong this time, Petron Blaze snapped out of the rut and brought down the hottest team in the PBA tournament' Cup last night, stunning B-Meg, 93-88, to get back in playoff contention at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Jay Washington tied his career-high with 29 points, with his five fourth quarter points coming in the most critical stretch as the defending champion Boosters kept their dominance of the Llanadas in improving to 4-2 and getting back in the middle of the pack.

Import Eddie Basden contributed 22 points and 11 rebounds and Jireh Mitsuda fired 10 as the Boosters played aggressively on both ends all night and took the Llanadas out of their comfort zone to snap B-Meg's league-best run at five games.

In the first game, Rain or Shine scored a 100-86 win over Barako Bull. (See story on page A2[illegible])

It was only the second loss in five games for the Llanadas, who already booked a playoff berth as early as last week but dropped to second behind Rain or Shine.

The Elasto Painters earlier survived a scare scare injury in super rookie Ifeel Lee in the first half to pound into a 100-90 decision of Barako Bull and rise to 6-1. The energy saw a two-game winning streak come to a halt and dropped to an even 3-3 record.

Washington dropped a triple with 4:34 left that finally put an end to a dogged B-Meg rally, taking it count to 89-76 before scoring again two throws possession later that made it 89-76 heading into the final 3:00.

The game featured the best defensive effort by the Boosters to tie. Their last two losses, against Barangay Ginebra and Barako Bull, came in the stretch when they couldn't protect their lead.

"I think we did a good job defensively," coach Ato Agustin told reporters. "And of course, there was Jay-Wash, he let it all hang out there tonight."

Washington scored 10 of his total to the second period when the Boosters earned a 23-16 control after the first quarter from a 33-41 lead at the half.

Marcus Blakely led the Llanadas with 20, all but seven of them coming in the second half as he tried numerous times to get B-Meg back in the game almost by himself.

The game was also physical with play being interrupted several times to break up tangled players.

But the most-silent physical play happened in the second quarter when Jojo Duncil, despite not seeing action, was thrown out of the game because of a Flagrant Foul 2 call against Bobby Ray Parks.

Duncil, a fresh reinforcee from Ateneo who was actually with the Boosters when they upset Talk 'N Text in last year's title series, tripped Ochinanda who was trying to save the ball from going out of bounds.

He will be summoned to the Commissioner's Office and is expected to draw a heavy fine and a suspension.

The scores:

Second Game

PETRON 93—Washington 29, Basden 22, Mitsuda 10, Lee 9, Yeo 8, Santos 7, Ildefonso 6, Perez 0, Mamaril 0, Melton 0

B-MEG 88—Blakely 20, Ong 12, Ybanez 12, Dionisio 8, Magsaysay 8, Ibañez 7, Ilustre 6, Quinahan 5, Bernardo 1, Manuel 0

Quarters: 33-41, 56-49, 77-62, 93-88

More Sports stories on A29 to A32

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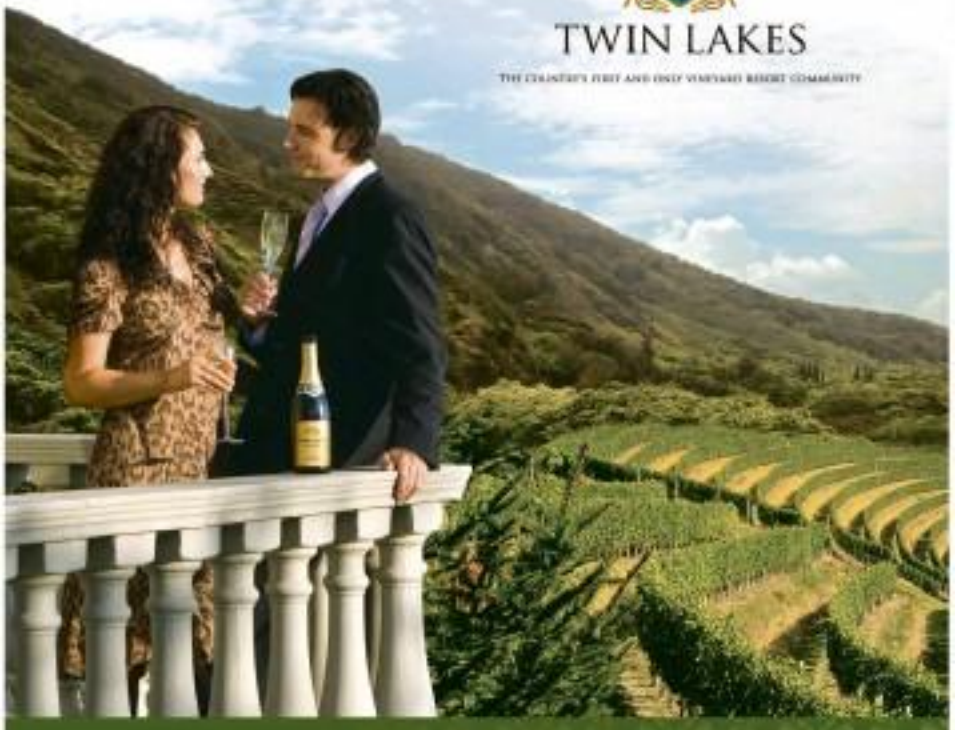

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DID YOU KNOW

A TENTH, or 21.9 percent of households in the National Capital Region or about 413,000 were motor vehicles, according to the recent Consumer Finance Survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Of this number, 47.7 percent were cars, 43.4 percent were motorcycles, and 11.8 percent were tricycles. **Erikani Bandola, Inquirer Research**

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A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

Thieves strike in AFP camp

By Julie M. Aurelio

THIS is one wedding anniversary they will never forget.

Bonifacio Bedoy (not the quarters of an army colonel right inside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City—the headquarters of the armed forces of the Philippines (AFP)—and made off with his car as well as two cell phones over the weekend.

Col. Nelson Clarderon, who is assigned to the AFP Detail Service, said that he had parked his green Mazda Bandit with license plate UEJ 652 in front of his quarters on Lapulapu Avenue.

But when he and his wife came home at around 9 a.m. on Saturday, the car was no longer there.

The couple had just come from a celebration since it was their wedding anniversary, said Investigator SPO3 Edwin Sison of the Quezon City Police District unit.

The burglars also broke into the couple's house by cutting a hole in the screen of one of the windows.

They ransacked the place although nothing was reported missing except for two cell phones and the keys to the missing car.

The police said that the burglars likewise went through two other cars owned by the retired airforce officer in the vehicles' chute, taking only the liquids.

A check of the footage taken by a closed circuit television camera later showed that the car had left the military camp through Gate 2.

Barangay chair gunned down

By Nikko Calleja

A BARANGAY captain from Mayantoquen town in Bulacan province was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding men at the packing hut of a seafood arena in Valenzuela City yesterday morning.

Lauro Bautista, 56, the chief of Barangay Libtong in Mayantoquen, died due to close gunshot wound to the torso at around 10:30 a.m.

Case investigator PO2 Rolan Tanseo said that the shooting happened while Bautista was guiding his son, Larry, who was driving a private modified car, into a parking spot at the cockpit area in Barangay Malanday.

All of a sudden, the two were approached by two other men on a Honda motorcycle, one of whom shouted "Kap" (Captain) before shooting the victim with a cal. .45 pistol.

"The son would have been shot, too, if the gun did not jam," Tanseo said.

The motorcycle-riding men then sped away while the victim was rushed to Meycauayan Doctors Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The victim's son told the police that on their way to the cockpit arena, they had observed a motorcycle following them from a nearby barangay in Bulacan.

The police have yet to determine the motive for the killing. "The son doesn't know if his father had any enemies," Tanseo said.

Senior Insp. Wilbert Mayor, Valenzuela police chief, added that they were coordinating with the Bulacan police to solve the case.

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QC women leaders vow to help solve waste problem

By Erwin and Jerry Pepa
Contributors

IN CELEBRATION of Environment Month, around 400 women leaders in Quezon City recently vowed to practice in their households or establishments waste segregation, composting and recycling as answer as part of a campaign being spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), Barangay Kaliksikan Ecology Centers and the city government's Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD).

The waste segregation approach in promoting ecological waste management has reinforced the successful experiences of waste-to-fuel efforts in the area as in the case of Lucio Sabas, livelihood nurse and resident who pioneered the 6Rs waste management in the Philippines some 40 years ago. There are also several other remarkable women in communities and various sectors who have contributed to this effort, including one who spearheaded the closure of a municipal dump in Montalban, Rizal province and a group which helped the mayor transform their whole town practically into an ecology center.

Environment Secretary Ramon J. Paje, who delivered the keynote speech, lauded the women as he announced that President Aquino was all set to get everyone together, starting from the households, to rid the environment of garbage.

"The President said that since he doesn't have much time left in the bureaucracy and we are also enjoying a greatly increased credit rating, it's time we cleaned our environment," Paje said. "We are saying it's more fun to the Philippine way because we're still a country that's dirty."

If the garbage problem was to be solved, the world also had to waste-free environs, Paje said. The government has just acquired four hectares to collect wastes from quezon and 26 more are coming although he added: "I that all we will be doing, dumping the wastes every day." The point is, let us not allow the garbage to reach the source."

Paje related his trip through the Ilocos de San Miguel, a long and deep river traversing several towns up until it drains to San Miguel Bay. Tuason wondered, "Imagine students taking the river and getting all at the MRT connection. That would greatly ease the traffic problem as, sometimes would be using both sea and land. Imagine the fish in the Ilocos de San Miguel must be rid of all the garbage. For sure, it is filthy and really stinks."

With the President taking the lead, would it be fair to hope for clean waterways leading to the inland railway transit line? The closure of dumps before 2014?

Paje may be indeed in the time as the western leaders responded to the motivational talk. Someone from Baybay later announced that 66 persons of residents in their area were already practicing waste segregation, a refined guidance from the University of the Philippines declared her commitment to help in the community while a businessman praised the virtues of composting which she and her children started practicing in the UK and are now continuing in their home.

Fredericia Ruanig EPWMD head, shared with the audience in her welcome speech how the city government was trying to lure the country's 1 in every 4 composting population and a fully developing urban land, crops, so as much more needed to be done. She appealed to the women for their help while the audience responded with applause when the announced that the city council had just passed an ordinance banning thin film and single-use plastic in the city.

Lee Sabas related how she was inspired by the biblical story of the miracle of five loaves and two fishes as told in John 6: 1-14. "When the crowd who came to listen to Jesus had had their fill, he said to his disciples: 'Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.'" This was how the told. And, she said, that spare, time, energy, material and spiritual resources, which are all of God's creation, should all be put to use so that nothing is wasted. She further explained how this concept could be applied to every-day life by everyone through the ecological management of waste resources.

Miss Earth Philippines 2012 Stephanie Stefanowitz, a Quezon City resident, and Miss Earth Philippines International 2006 Cathy Untalan also graced the event and urged the women to help protect the environment particularly through ecological waste management. They both narrated their own experiences in practicing ecological waste management in their own homes.

Prof Nathaniel Balbero of Barangay Kaliksikan Ecology Center led a rousing talk appropriately punctuated by songs he himself rendered, to highlight the women's vital role in the home and community in keeping with their innate nature as nurturers and their capabilities as managers.

Sheila G. Andin, regional executive director for DENR-NCR and a forestry related how she had raised her children with resources to plant the seeds of fruits they ate at the table to-gether. "I am inspired by some of the women leaders present in the audience to plant the seeds of fruits they ate at the table together. Today over 30 years later, they are now enjoying the fruits of those seeds.

Bobby Shem, regional director of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, likewise touched on his own family's best practices in managing waste in their home.

MMDA: Create elite regional rescue team

By Miko Morales

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Francis Tolentino yesterday proposed the formation of a regional elite rescue group that could be dispatched to Asian countries reeling from natural calamities such as earthquakes and typhoons.

He made the pitch as the agency's monthly radio show aired live by disclosed that Manila would be hosting next year a regional conference on disaster management to be attended by several Asian countries.

The Asian Network for Major Cities 21 (ANMC21), an international network forming ties among other things, the exchange of best practices in crisis management, earlier named Manila as the host for the annual conference tentatively set in July or August.

The conference will coincide with the country's National Disaster Consciousness Month, according to Tolentino.

He mentioned the agency's programs such as the Eastern Black-vulture southern cities exchanges of trash that bumper the Bora of Honduras, as well as the community-level Flood Control Operations Joint Alliances in which barangays have been tasked to implement flood prevention measures.

"I hope we could have an Asian disaster rescue group, an elite group that could be deployed anywhere...," he said. "We have a lot of rich neighbors that could finance it operations, not to mention provide equipment and personnel."

"The important thing here is that this group could be dispatched anywhere in Asia should a country get stricken by calamities," he added.

Tolentino expressed hope that his proposal would be tackled during the March meet.

The body gave Manila the hosting chores for the 2013 conference when Tolentino and other local officials attended the 18th Crisis Management Conference held recently in Bangkok.

While the security may not have the most modern equipment and machinery to muster, "intervention measures" are the "intervention measures", he said. "Not effective," Tolentino said.

He mentioned the agency's programs such as the Eastern Black-vulture southern cities exchanges of trash that bumper the Bora of Honduras, as well as the community-level Flood Control Operations Joint Alliances in which barangays have been tasked to implement flood prevention measures.

LOOK MA, NO ARMS
A young boy examines a family of bronze statues on Roxas Boulevard in Manila whose members are missing their arms. The statues, however, have spared the family dog which still has all its limbs. EDDY PALMA

NCRPO gears up for rainy season, emergencies

By Mike Morales

THE HEAD of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday said that a 25,000-strong police unit had been mobilized for rainy season emergencies in case of emergencies or calamities that may arise due to typhoons.

According to NCRPO Director Alex Perlunia, his command's search and rescue unit started training in the summer through regular and refresher courses in coping them with the knowledge to carry out rescue missions.

"The trainees learned boat handling techniques, because (police) rescuers for police safety and survival, lay well as paramedics and first aid (given) community needed during natural and man-made disasters," he said in a statement.

A total of 23,146 police officers underwent training during summer while another 912 completed the program recently.

At the same time, Perlunia ordered an inventory of the NCRPO's rescue equipment to make sure that these were functional and accounted for. These were earlier distributed and installed at strategic areas where flooding was a perennial problem, he added.

Among the equipment distributed to critical areas were the NCRPO's 10 rubber boats and six trucks.

Perlunia, meanwhile, encouraged the public to report to the police any emergency requiring their assistance through the following emergency hotlines 0999-9958381, 0915-8888281 or 8388-5865. These numbers could be manned day and night, he added.

NGO pushes for decongestion of all prisons in Metro Manila

PRISON inmates have rights, too.

Lawyer Jhonnel Alex Abitria, executive director of the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF), made this statement after he expressed alarm over congested jails in Metro Manila, many of which have been found relief through the organization's assistance.

"Recently, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and HLAF were able to work on the release of 1,000 prison inmates in Metro Manila in a period four months," said Abitria.

The inmates were from cells in Caloocan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila, Pasay City, Taguig and Quezon City.

HLAF is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO) that seeks to uphold the rights, welfare and well-being of prisoners, especially those in jail, and promote restorative justice for the sick, elderly and children in conflict with the law.

In-prison training

Lately the HLAF has been actively working on training inmates on paralegal assistance.

Abitria noted that among the goals of the organization was to find solutions to jail congestion.

According to him, a man who is unjustly detained even without a complainant stays an average of four years in jail while waiting for his case to be heard. Hearings are usually scheduled three to four months apart.

The lack of juvenile detention homes in cities has also led to youth offenders being mixed with hardened criminals.

No to amending law

Abitria, meanwhile, warned against the House of Representatives's approval of the bill lowering the age of criminal responsibility.

"The lowering of the age of criminal liability is antipoor and anti-children. Only children of the poor are brought to youth homes and their detention in jail is really how life. Handling youth homes are rehabilitated," he said.

He challenged legislators to look into the cases of children locked up in adult jails.

"While the title of the amendatory law (House Bill No. 6652) is 'Strengthening the Juvenile Justice Law,' what is really does is weaken the existing Juvenile Justice Law," he claimed.

ELDIO Evangelista Jr., a member of the barangay emergency response team, at the weather monitoring station in Barangay Poblacion in Makati City shows how they keep track of local weather conditions. The city government has put up a third station, this time in Barangay San Lorenzo. EDDY PALMA

Makati City puts up 3rd weather monitor station

By Miko Morales

THE MAKATI government has put up the third weather monitoring station in the city in its continuing efforts to provide residents with the local weather forecast.

Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay inaugurated the other day the weather monitoring station in Barangay San Lorenzo to join two-by with the Manila Observatory, the oldest weather monitoring station in the country run by the Jesuits at Ateneo de Manila University.

The system costs P1.28,000.

According to Binay, access to information about the weather conditions in Makati will enable city government officials to make critical decisions immediately, like suspending classes, instead of relying on forecasts from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the country's weather bureau.

"While other areas in Manila may be experiencing heavy rains and floods that may prompt (the) suspension of classes, Makati may only have light showers," he said. "With this system, local officials have a basis to whether to suspend classes or not."

Aside from the San Lorenzo weather station, the local government installed two other stations at city hall and in Barangay Poblacion and Pio.

Manila hosts Laughter Yoga sessions

By Jayrose T. Cadiz

AS PART of the week-long celebration for "Kasa ng Maynila" on June 24, the city government has lined up an activity this week which is guaranteed to leave residents in stitches.

The Manila Sports Council (Manspo) has organized the city's first "Manila Laughter Yoga" session Wednesday to be followed by another one on Thursday.

Both will be held at 4 p.m. at the Bonifacio Shrine, beside city hall, with laughter yoga guru Paolo Martin Trinidad, who founded Laughter Yoga Philippines in 2013, as the instructor.

Mayor Alfredo Paul Edward Alfonso described laughter yoga as an aerobic workout which is done while laughing, thus helping relieve stress.

MASS WEDDING
A priest sprinkles holy water on couples taking part in a mass wedding, one of several activities marking De La Salle University's 101st anniversary at the Taft Avenue campus. RICHARD A. REYES

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto R. Glocoo

Too risky: UN suspends Syria mission

CAIRO—The United Nations said on Saturday that it was suspending its observer mission in Syria because of the escalating violence, the most severe blow yet to months of international efforts to negotiate a peace plan and prevent Syria's descent into civil war.

The United Nations said the monitors would not be withdrawn from Syria, but were being locked down in Syria's most contested cities, unable to conduct patrols. While the decision to suspend their work was made chiefly to protect the unarmed monitors, the statement appeared to be to force Russia to intervene to ensure that the observers are not the targets of Syrian forces or their sympathizers. Russia has opposed Western intervention and, by some accounts, continues to arm the forces of President Bashar Assad.

For President Barack Obama, the suspension of the observers' activities—unless it is reversed quickly—could signal the failure of the latest effort by the West to reach a diplomatic solution and oust Assad from power.

But Obama's choices are no better than they were when the uprising in Syria began nearly a year and a half ago. A bombing campaign like the one conducted last year by Nato in Libya with strong US and Arab League support is not feasible in Syria. The battle is being waged in crowded cities, with little chance to attack the Syrian Army without the risk of high civilian casualties.

Obama, Nato nations and the Arab League have never wanted to send in a ground force, which would probably face heavy casualties in what many fear is emerging as a civil war.

The White House issued a statement on Saturday once again calling on Syria to uphold commitments it has made in recent months, "including the full implementation of a ceasefire." The statement added, "We are consulting with our international partners regarding next steps toward a Syrian-led political transition" called for in two UN Security Council resolutions, and "the sooner that transition takes place, the greater the chance of averting a lengthy and bloody civil war."

Syria's uprising has become one of the most intractable and deadliest conflicts of the Arab Spring, with reports of at least four massacres in recent weeks, including accounts of killings of as many as 78 civilians, many of them women and children.

On Saturday, dozens of Syrians were killed in government attacks across the country, especially in villages around Damascus, the capital, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a group based in Britain with contacts in Syria. The group said other activists said mortar bases were carrying out sweeping arrests, particularly of young men, in areas around the capital. New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Egypt votes in final day of presidential election

CAIRO—Polling opened in Egypt on Sunday's final day of a two-day election to choose a successor to ousted president Hosni Mubarak, in a race that pits a former regime member against an Islamist. Queues had already formed outside some voting stations before they opened their doors at 8:00 a.m. with police and Army deployed outside. Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi has promised that an Egypt under his leadership would be inclusive, and vowed to defend the goals of last year's uprising, while ex-premier Ahmed Shafiq is standing on a tough law-and-order platform. The election has polarized the nation, dividing those who fear a return to the old regime under Shafiq's leadership from others who want to keep religion out of politics and fear the Brotherhood would stifle personal freedoms. AFP

Bombings kill 34 people in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—A bomb in a pickup truck killed at least 26 people at a market in northwest Pakistan on Saturday and wounded 65, security and hospital officials said, in one of the largest bombings in both cities in weeks. The target in the town of Landi Kotal appeared to be a tribal leader allied with the government against the Pakistani Taliban, the Islamist militant group blamed for many of the suicide bombings across the country, security officials said. The Pakistani Taliban are seeking to topple the US-backed government. Suicide attacks have eased in recent months but there are no signs Pakistan's military has broken the back of the group. In a separate incident in the northwestern district of Kohat, a homemade bomb exploded next to a police vehicle, killing eight people, including four policemen, and wounded at least six others, security officials said. Reuters

3 car bombings kill over 30 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A security clampdown aimed at preventing Shiite pilgrims killed in renewed a new round of carnage on Saturday as two car bombings in Baghdad killed more than 30 at the end of a weeklong celebration. Both attacks occurred in the early afternoon, as pilgrims, after a day of Sunni religious reverence, including chest-beating and carrying a symbolic coffin, filled the streets. The attacks represented an embarrassment to the Army and police, and their top commander, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and raised questions about the ability of Iraq's security forces to protect the population. Roads had been closed and both the Army and police had been deployed to protect the three parcels of pilgrims who come to the capital to mark the early deaths of an eighth-century imam. New York Times News Service

Ex-Indian Army major takes flight, kills family

SELMA, California—At 5:15 a.m. last Saturday, Avtar Singh dialed 911 from his home in the Central Valley farming town 322 kilometers north of Los Angeles. He told police he had just killed five people and was about to kill himself. Then he hung up. When police found Selma police found Singh, 67, dead on the living room. His 38-year-old wife and three-year-old son were dead in a bed in the master bedroom. His 17-year-old son lay dead in his bedroom. A third son, 19 years old, was barely alive in another room and later died. All had been shot in the head. The bond of bloodletting that wiped out Singh's family in their modest one-story house marked the end of a once-poor member of authorities for a once-feared military officer from India. Accused of murdering a human rights lawyer in his home land, Singh took flight, living briefly in Canada, then the United States, building a family and a small trucking business along the way. AP

China sends 3 astronauts, including a woman, into space

SHANGHAI—China sent a crew of three, including the country's first female astronaut, into space on Saturday to carry out its first manned docking mission, an important step in an ambitious plan to build a Chinese space station by 2020. The crew is expected to spend up to 20 days in space and dock with the orbiting Tiangong 1 space lab module, a kind of minor test space station, which China launched in September. New York Times News Service

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SPORTS

BARAKO Bull's Rousal Tolisil wins vs. gee pure Rain or Shine's Paul Lee in last night's game.

E-Painters defuse Energy, regain lead

By Marang R. Castillo

AFTER preparing for Rain or Shine squad hard and early, Yeng Guiao is not at all surprised that they are doing well in the PBA Governors' Cup.

But, he admits, not as well as they're doing now.

The Elasto Painters started another winning streak going last night, surviving a minor injury to super rookie Paul Lee in the second quarter for a 100-90 victory over Barako Bull in violent Ilo No. 1 (pot in the elimination) at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"I was expecting we were going to play well this conference," Guiao said after getting 19 points from Jeff Chan and 16 from import Jermelle Comley in winning a second straight game and improving to 4-1.

"We prepared early. How in Jamville early for him to get acclimatized and know his teammates well," he continued. "That's the key to the format that we have right now: early preparation and early wins. If you want to have a chance in the Finals.

"That I want not (expecting that we would do) very well as we're doing right now."

The Painters seized complete command late in the second period and closed out the half sitting on a 57-43 lead over with Lee injuring his left shoulder in a scramble for possession against Leroy Mickelson.

Lee, the second overall choice in the Draft, never returned and played just a total of eight minutes to score four points. But the Painters were never in trouble again as they even led by 21 twice late in the fourth.

Guiao then quickly dismissed (speculation that Lee was hurt bad in that play, saying that it was his decision not to give Lee more minutes in the second half since they were playing with firm control.

The loss was the third in six games for the Kings and the first in three outings with Mickelson as an import. Mickelson paced Barako Bull with 24 points and 13 rebounds and Yeng Rontos added 14 and 12.

Huey, partner reach Weber doubles finals

TREAT Huey and partner Scott Lipsky of the United States outlasted Michael Kohlmann and Florian Mayer of Germany, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, yesterday night to reach the men's doubles finals of the Gerry Weber Open tennis championships in Halle, Germany.

HUEY

The 28-year-old Huey, looking for his first title this year and improve his 30th ranking in the world, worked seamlessly with Lipsky to downing the hometown bets who got a free ride to the semifinals after Rafael Nadal and Marcelo Granollers withdrew before the quarterfinal match.

Nadal opted to focus his attention in the singles where he lost to a shocking defeat to defending champion Philipp Kohlschreiber, 6-3, 6-4, in the quarterfinals just a few days after after capturing his record seventh French Open singles crown.

Huey and Lipsky earlier handled our second seeds Frederik Germish of Czech Republic and Julian Knowle of Austria, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8, to secure the semis Friday.

In the finals, Huey and Lipsky will face top seeds Aisam Qureshi of Pakistan and Jean Julien Rojer of Netherlands who pulled off an easy 6-2, 6-4 triumph over Lukasz Kubot of Poland and Mikhail Youzhny of Russia.

Qureshi, who skipped the Davis Cup matchup against the Philippines in the last two ties, won the doubles title last year in tandem with Julian Robam Boguena.

But Huey and Lipsky proved to be a well-oiled machine, flying a total of 18 aces against Kohlman and Mayer. *Mars Arellano*

JUVIC Pagunsan, Richer by over P1 million

Pagunsan nails second as Tabuena crumbles

JUVIC Pagunsan took up the challenge when Miguel Tabuena again faltered in the final round with his closing 3-under-par 68 Sunday lifting him into a tie for second place in the Queens Cup 2012 won by Thai veteran Thawern Wiseerhunt.

The reigning Asian Tour No. 1 scorched the back nine with the round's best score of 4-under 32 and entered this hopes of a playoff for the title at the clubhouse until Wiseerhunt finished birdie-par-eagle to match Javier's 68 and secure a three-stroke victory with a 277 total.

Pagunsan, a candidate for the halfway cut after opening with a 75, second up at 280 even as Tabuena, who was tied for the lead to the first three rounds, crumbled under pressure and limped home with his worst round of 3-over 76 at the Buddhist Imperial Country Club in Thailand.

The 17-year-old Tabuena, who was also a co-leader after two rounds in the Queens Cup Philippine Open last February before finishing in a six-way tie for 11th, ended up in a two-way tie for 19th at 285.

Juvic picked up $21,423 (about P1,019,4,860) in winding up second with Gulshirar, the Bangladesh star who carded a 71. It was his second biggest payday this year after bagging $30,000 (P1.4 million) for handing Bandit to the Citibank Cup in the Japan Golf Tour early this month.

Tabuena, a sophomore pro who came to the tournament as winner for the second time in five legs of the SCTH Golf Tour, earned $5,042. He had earlier rounds of 67, 70-72.

Antonio Lascuña closed with a 71, joined a six-way tie for 17th at 288 and won $3,605.

Mars Pucay (70) finished at 290 and earned $1,976, Jay Bayron (71) wound up at 291 worth $1,332 and Angelo Que (76) was among the tailenders at 294 and netted for $1,326.

The 24-year-old Pagunsan, who was actually playing in the Asian Tour for the first time this season, trailed Thawern by five after a 37 at the turn, but he caught fire coming home, grinning down back-to-back birdies on the 12th and 13th before going birdie-birdie again on the last two holes.

"It's a great result. The winds were too strong. You just have to keep your focus on every shot. That's what I did today," said the smooth-swinging Filipino.

Thawern was tied with Pagunsan at four under overall going into the last three holes before he pulled away with a birdie on the 16th and an eagle on the par-5 finishing hole to secure a record-equalling 23th Asian Tour title.

Thawern, who won his victorious in Samui in the 2008 Bangkok Airways Open, matched countryman Thongchai Jaidee's record number of triumphs as the region's elite current and earned $47,556.

Silawan dropped five strokes in the first seven holes for a 41 coming out and needed a 33 to finish in the top 10.

Thawern entered the Queen's Cup in hot form after winning two domestic tournaments and another in Laos over the past month. "This means a lot as it's the first time I have won the Queen's Cup as an Asian Tour event," said a delighted Thawern. *Asian Tour News*

Pacman visits disaster-hit constituents

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN, Sarangani Province—There were none of the usual hero's welcome for world boxing champion and Rep. Manny Pacquiao. Still, people lined up to see him.

This time, however, the boxing champ was giving out relief assistance to those who were affected by the flashfloods that hit this town last week.

From the airport in General Santos City, Pacquiao's convoy of more than 20 vehicles proceeded to this town to distribute relief goods and cash assistance.

He gave out an undisclosed amount of rice and P10,000 cash to every family directly affected by the calamity.

Pacquiao also pledged to purchase lots for the relocation of all displaced families in Glan.

"All these are coming from my personal pockets. My gifts for you from the proceeds of my recent fight with 'Timothy Bradley' he said laughing.

Pacquiao lost his WBO welterweight belt to Bradley by split decision.

Pacquiao said he couldn't wait for funds from government because "government bureaucracy grinds so slow."

Vacation cut short

He could not say yet how long he would be staying here.

"Maybe three to five days. I can cut short my family vacation to help my constituents who were affected by the calamity," he said.

Before his homecoming, he said, he expected to his children his responsibility as public official.

"I told my children: I have to rush home to help the people in my district. This is part of my responsibility as a public servant," he said.

Dumaguete PNG exposes misfits from nat'l pool

By Jane Meredith

THE RECENT Philippine National Games served as an eye opener to the Philippine Sports Commission that quite a number of athletes, including some gold medalists in the Southeast Asian Games last year, no longer deserve to be in the national pool.

PSC chair Richie Garcia yesterday said a committee will be formed to review the performance of national athletes following a significant dip in the performances of some athletes during the 1986 held in Dumaguete City two weeks ago.

Without naming them, Garcia hinted that athletes who took the PNG for granted may be booted out of the 600-member national pool from 54 national sports associations and lose their allowances.

"I feel there are some athletes who deserve to be in the national pool and there are athletes in the pool who don't deserve to be there," said Garcia.

"The Bible should remove them. But we can't force the NSAs, so the best thing we could do is stop the allowances of these athletes," he added.

Garcia said Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. brought up the formation of the committee composed of POC and PSC officials in a recent meeting but he cannot say comprehensive options.

"This committee will analyze the performance of the athletes and impose certain sanctions or adjustments in their classifications in the PSC payroll," said Garcia.

Garcia said that those athletes took the PNG lightly thinking that the real competitions such as the SEA Games and the Asian Games are still a year or two away.

"They seem to have that mentality. They're not excited to start preparing themselves now or in the future," said Garcia.

"If you are a gold medalist in the SEA Games and you ended up with nothing in the PNG, maybe you should start all over again and prove yourself worthy," he added. "Some of them prefer to relax than do the hard work. We're not going to allow this."

Pachanga tops UFL 2nd division

By Cedrik F. Tupas

PACHANGA climbed the second division title of the United Football League with a game to spare after a 4-0 blanking of Agila Saturday night at the University of Makati field.

With the title, the Red Phoenix entered promotion to the first division starting next season in their maiden foray to the UFL.

The last crumb to pull off the catch is Global, which became the first team to earn promotion two years ago.

Pachanga will take the place of Navy in the top division after the Armed Forces team won only one match in its first 10 matches this season.

Harry's 1-18 loss to Lopeda Mendoza had dashed its hopes of staying in the top flight come as almost the same time Pachanga sealed their title knocking

"We're ready for the challenge," said Pachanga team owner Freddy Gonzales, who also heads the league in wearing with 33 goals this season.

A former national team member who recently got an invite to return to the squad, Gonzales scored in the 60th minute, capping a dominant display for Pachanga which could finish the season undefeated with a victory over Dilimon FC in its final match.

GONZALES

Jerom Bedic, Robert Camelo and John Paul Mendez were also on target for Pachanga, whose season-long highlighted by an astonishing tally of 111 goals.

The season looked primed for a thrilling finale when Pachanga and its closest rival Dilimon battled to a draw in their last match of the first round.

But while Dilimon dropped points in a loss to Cebu Queens City three weeks ago, Pachanga stayed relentless, sweeping its first 11 matches in the second round and giving up just seven goals this season to underscore its dominance.

Chavez Jr still middleweight champion

EL PASO, Texas—Mexico's unbeaten Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. stopped Irish contender Andy Lee in the seventh round on Saturday to keep his World Boxing Council middleweight title and win his 23rd fight in a row.

Referee Lawrence Cole stopped the bout at 2:21 of the seventh round as Chavez, nagged by lingering soreness throughout the fight, inflicted a pounding to the head and body of Lee with no punches being thrown in response.

"I would have knocked him out earlier if it wasn't for my legs," Chavez said. "From the first round my legs were bothering me. It was strange. That's why I was standing up. I couldn't move. But I got the victory."

Chavez, 26, improved to 46-0 and one draw with his 32nd victory inside the distance while 2004 Olympian Lee, 28, fell to 26-1 and saw his four-year, 15-fight winstreak snapped in his first world title fight.

"My punches had no effect on him. He just walked through them," Lee said. "No excuses. He's a good fighter."

Most of the crowd at Sun Bowl stadium, just across the US border from his homeland, backed Chavez, a big legend's son who is making his own name.

"I'm very happy to carry the name and I'm forcing myself to make history in the world of boxing," Chavez said.

Chavez and Lee exchanged flurries of hard punches to the fourth round and Chavez rang the Irishman with body blows in the fifth. Lee vowed to take the power punches of the champion but taking the worse of the punishment.

"I wanted to see if he had any power. I saw he didn't have anything so I came out," Chavez said. *AFP*

CHAVEZ

PH Malditas find new home in Taguig

THE PNG FFMF women's football team has found a home at The Turfs Downtown Global City in Taguig.

The Malditas have been granted free use of the facility for training after the Philippine Football Federation and the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation signed a memorandum of agreement recently.

Under the agreement, the Malditas are also set to become cash-sponsorship from FBDC in partnership with Meralco.

Representing FBDC in the signing are Manny Blas, the head of commercial operations, and Lou Rivera, their finance officer.

"We are appreciative of the efforts of the FBDC to help football," said PFF president Mariano Araneta, who signed the deal for the PFF. *Cedrik F. Tupas*

Can Bata nail a third world title?

BELLARMINE great Elmo "Bata" Reyes will again be among the favorites in the 22nd World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) Men's 8-Ball Championship slated in Doha on June 22 to 29.

The 1999 winner in Cardiff, Wales, Reyes will pocket a mullup at 37 years old. He faced and 28-30 champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante in all-to-expected to give the field a run for their money.

The DPPA and the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) will make a total cash prize of $250,000, with $58,000 going to the champion.

Whatever hopes campers, the writer can't help but recall the Waterloo Reyes suffered in the hands of Filipino-American Rodolfo Luat in the 2005 World Cup of Pool in Manila.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Mejo

But with the help of the Payne brothers Jose "Pepit" and Antonio "Paeh"—Reyes' longtime benefactors—and several concerned friends, the 45-year-old Reyes is not lacking at all.

Ranking the star hustler in Manila and overcoming an leg, Reyes still managed to take the 1995 Manila Regency 9-Ball Open over perennial titlist Efren "Bata Reyes" Reyes.

Reyes also won the World 8-Ball crown in 2004. Among his other achievements are the 2004 Billiards Player of the Decade, Presidential League of Honor, Hall of Fame, Athlete of the Year and Athlete of the Decade awards.

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Indonesia Warriors' Fil-Am ace also a PH five prospect

PRINGLE

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN point guard who named the Indonesia Warriors' campaign as second has also given the San Miguel Beermen a tough time in their bid for a first Asean Basketball League crown.

But it's all just weak for Stanley Pringle, who even sees himself suiting up for the Philippine team in the future.

Pringle, who's playing as an Asean import for the Warriors, was already a prospect for the first batch of the Smart Gilas national team before he decided to play in the European leagues.

But it was Indonesia that got hold of Pringle first after his European stint and the spunky 6-foot-1 talent turned the Warriors into an instant title contender when he joined their last April.

"I'd love to play for the national team," said Pringle, who crosses his roots in Davao Oriental in Cagayan. "It's my first time here in the Philippines and it's a good chance to meet my grandparents."

Pringle, a former starting point guard for Pennsylvania State University, averages 10.8 points, 4.3 rebounds and 5.8 assists for the Warriors.

In Game 1 of the finals, the 23-year-old Pringle again got away with 21 points, most of them during the Warriors' early down-the-line triple surge, before the Beermen rallied to hand one-and-done win.

Then Saturday, the Beermen ans. ns complete a title sweep in Game 2 of the best-of-three series scheduled in Mahaba Square in Jakarta.

Although Pringle remains tied with the Warriors until 2014, Indonesia's American coach Todd Purves said his star guard can still see action for the Philippines.

"He signed with the Indonesia Warriors exclusively for two more seasons, with the exception of whether he likes to play with the national team," said Purves.

"There's a flexibility, especially if it's during the off-season. We've discussed it with him and if there's an opportunity to represent the Philippines, we're more than happy to let him."

Czechs reach Euro 2012 quarterfinals

PRAGUE—Czech media were in a jubilant mood on Sunday as they hailed their team's 1-0 victory over Poland that sent the side through to the Euro 2012 quarterfinals.

"We're through! Thanks guys," says the front page of the Blesk tabloidm, one of two Czech papers published on Monday.

Petr Jiracek scored the only goal of the game on Saturday night, as the Czechs beat co-hosts Poland to snatch top spot in Group A and consigned their beaten opponents and Russia to an early exit.

"The wonderful Euro ride continues... the Czechs advance as group winners and cruise from second spot. Incredible," it added.

Greece beat much-fancied Russia, 1-0, on Saturday in Wroclaw.

"Bonanza! Jiracek sent the Czechs to the quarterfinals," said the website of the Sport daily, praising the atmosphere created by a frantic 50,000 crowd on a rainy night in Wroclaw, southwest Poland.

The website of the IHNED daily, the largest Czech broadsheet, checked the scored books, noting that the Czech Republic had never missed a European championships since Czechoslovakia split in 1993.

"The Czechs have now made it to the playoff phase for the third time" out of five tournaments, it added.

"After the opening minutes when the Czechs fought off Polish attacks, they were the better team. The Czechs were more skilful and faster. They upset the enthusiastic Poles and silenced the home crowd with their outstanding performances.

"If the coach depended on how loud the fans were, Poland would have made it on their quarterfinals. But football fans are different—and that's why the Czech Republic is among the eight best teams of the continent," the Lidove noviny said.

"They managed to silence the noisy crowd at the end of a noisy evening." AFP

Heat expect big Thunder in Game 3

PHR29 Heat guard Dwyane Wade goes for a layup in Oklahoma City Thunder power forward Serge Ibaka defends during first half action in Game 2.

MIAMI—At this point a year ago, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade were using words like urgency and desperation.

And that's exactly what the Miami Heat expect the Oklahoma City Thunder to bring into Game 3 of this year's NBA Finals.

So far, this championship series has followed the same script as a year ago, with the home team winning the opening matchup, then falling in Game 2 to lose the homecourt edge. Miami took the sting of that into Dallas last year and used it as fuel to win Game 3—and the Heat are still back in exactly the same dismal position they're in now.

"You've got the two best teams in the league right now going against each other," Wade said Sunday. "It's always precarious around after a day off for both clubs. "So it's going to be a very tough game, but we have to find a way to win it. And it's about taking, like I said, one possession at a time, one second, one minute at a time to make sure we reach our goal...and that's to win the game."

A Game 3 victory notwithstanding, a lesson the Heat learned the hard way last year. That win in Dallas was Miami's final victory of the season.

But there are certain cracks that will come from the outcome Sunday night. The winner still have homecourt advantage. The winner will be two games away from a championship. And the losing club will see what appears to be an already razor-thin margin for error in this series become even more precarious.

"We have no other choice," said Thunder star Kevin Durant, the league's scoring champion. "We lost at home. Tough loss. We've got to get over it, get ready for a tough Game 3. You know, the series is going to be tough. We know that. We know that. You've just got to be ready. It's going to be a fun one."

By turn, the Heat aren't shy to say they're completely exhausted about discussing what went wrong in last year's finals. Still, they know the importance of not letting one loss turn into another—because when that happened against the Mavericks a year ago, there was a parade in Dallas not long afterward. AP

Sharks nip Dolphins; Unibikers triumph

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH ONLY pride at stake, defending champions Manila Jr. played tough-but-under five to the ninth inning to shave Cebu, 3-2, yesterday and end the Smart-ball Philippines Series 9 elimination on a winning note at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Cebu Dolphins, solely in the semifinals with a twice-as-heal incentive to host, came close to catching the three-time defending champion Sharks in the last frame when manager Isaac Bucarisas, who opted to join the action, delivered a two-scoring single with two outs.

But the Sharks held on to secure their ninth win in 11 games while leaving the Dolphins with a final 11-4 slate.

"We want to end the elimination on a winning note because it will boost our morale," said manager Jordi Pulmay of the Sharks, who scored two runs in the fourth and had another in the seventh.

Later in the afternoon, Dumaguete routed Alabang, 14-5, to end the eliminations tied with Cebu, but the Dolphins claimed top spot by beating the Unibikers earlier.

Alabang wound up with a 7-8 record as the last semifinalist behind Manila.

In the semifinals this Sunday, Cebu will tangle with Alabang while Dumaguete, also enjoying a twice-to-beat incentive, will face Manila.

In a an inning five game, Tagaig grabbed two-time champion Batangas, 6-2, to close out the season with a 4-11 record. The Bulls, rebuilding this season with a young, inexperienced roster, finished at 3-12.

Tacloban City hosts jet ski series

TACLOBAN City will play host on a more exciting 2nd Easygoer International Jet Ski Challenge-National Jet Ski Series third leg set June 23 to 24 at Cancabato Bay.

Filipino will face Asian champions in the event organized by the Jet Sports Association of the Philippines in cooperation with the Tacloban City government under Mayor Alfred Romualdez and Rep. Martin Romualdez.

Homegrown rider Raymund Romualdez, last year's Rookie of the Year, will bannere the host's campaign as he joins 30 Team members Paul del Rosario, RJ Ang, Jun Maigda, Mky Reyes, Mike Mangle, Darrell Garbes, Butch Candelo, Peng Jose and Pete Dera.

For inquiries, call Rika Javier at 09173001978.

Regent Foods turns 24 with fun run at BGC

REGENT Foods has joined the fitness craze by celebrating its 24th anniversary with a five-division fun run on Aug. 12 at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Finni gaids will be up for grabs after races in 100m 2oddlers and kids up to 12 years old, 3K, 5K, 10k and 16K. Entry fees are P450 (100m and 3K), P500 (5K and 10K) and P700 (16K), inclusive of special edition Fun Run Jersey's team canopies with 15 Regent products, to be given upon registration.

Finishers in the 5K, 10K and 16K categories will also get medals while 10k finishers will receive an additional finisher's shirt.

As a bonus, Regent Foods will raffle off prizes, including a round-trip ticket to Thailand via Thai Airways and overnight accommodation at the Grand Thai Hotel.

Interested parties can register at Robinsons supermarket branches in Galleria, Ortigas, Ermita, Tiong and SF Homes and at Regent store in BGC until Aug. 5. For inquiries, call 6413686.

OLYMPIC PARTNERS Philippine Olympic team chief of mission Manny Lopez (second from right) and Petron president Eric O. Recio shake hands after sealing a deal that makes Petron as an official partner of the London-bound Philippine team. Also in photo are Petron senior vice president and CFO Emmanuel Bruno (left) and PH team administrative officer Arnulfo Lucero. Also backing the Filipino athletes are ICTSI, Bank of Philippine Islands, Milcana, Sunmaster and Procter and Gamble.

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Bright prospects for nat'l shooters

PHILIPPINE rifle coach Miguel Tejada Rodriguez believes the Filipino shooters, especially the young ones, have what it takes to become a major force in the region in the near future.

A member of the Spanish team for 23 years, Rodriguez said he was impressed with the performance of the Philippine team in the recent South East Asian Shooting Association Championships in Malaysia where it produced a gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

"I have no doubt about the quality of the Filipino shooters," said Rodriguez, tapped by Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) president Mikee Romero to handle the team.

Celdon Arellano, Jayson Valdez, Yvonne Dy, Joelle Pangandian, Montes Yang, Frances Nicole Medina, Gaspare Acuna, Teresa Lourdes Tan and Shamier Lyn Gonzales are some of the shooters who have the potential to shine, said Rodriguez.

Romero and Oey are also making arrangements with the Philippine Sports Commission and other supporters to have an electronic range range.

SPORTS

Federer eyes 6th Weber crown versus Haas

HALLE, Germany—Roger Federer will face Germany's Tommy Haas in a bid to win the Gerry Weber Open for a record sixth time on Sunday. The second-seeded Federer beat Mikhail Kruchkov of Russia, 6-1, 6-4, to reach the seventh final while the 87th-ranked Haas defeated defending champion Philipp Kohlschreiber, 7-6 (5), 7-5, in Saturday's semifinals. AP

Dowell ties Furyk for lead

SAN FRANCISCO—Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk were the battle of par Saturday at the U.S. Open. Tiger Woods lost a lot more than that.

McDowell showed the kind of fight that won him a U.S. Open two years ago—three the coast at Pebble Beach. He scratched out pars and finished with a 4-foot birdie putt that gave him a 2-under 68 and a share of the lead going into the final round at The Olympic Club.

"Probably for the first time this week, I actually enjoyed the sound of golf," McDowell said.

Furyk, also bidding for another trophy from golf's toughest test, matched Woods in the final pairing with key bunker saves and an 8-foot birdie putt on the 17th for a 70, making him the only player who has yet to bogey a round over par.

They were at 1-under 139, the only survivors against par.

"Obviously I like being up front in the pecan I'm in," Furyk said. "The golf course will take its effect on a bunch of people. And the guys that go out there and deal with the conditions and the situations the best...those are the guys that have some success and have an opportunity to win the last few holes."

Woods sure didn't look like one of those guys in the third round. Missing a key knee shot, he turned in a bogey.

He fell out of the lead with two bogeys in the first three holes, couldn't make a birdie on the eleventh of holes that Olympic at long stretch to make up ground, and ended with a sloppy bogey on the 18th for a 75. Only eight players had a higher score.

It marched Woods' worst score when he at least had a share of the lead after any round of a major. He also closed with a 75 in 2008 at the PGA Championship where he had a two-shot lead in T.R. Yang.

"I'm just going to have to shoot a good round tomorrow, and post early and see what happens," Woods said.

All was not lost for Woods, not to mention another dozen or so players. In a U.S. Open that has lived up to its reputation this week, it was difficult for anyone to get too far ahead.

McDowell and Furyk were two shots ahead of Fredrik Jacobson, who had a 68. Another shot behind was a group that included Lee Westwood, whose Saturday hour 67 gave him another shot at his first major, and Hunter Mahan, who holed a long putt for eagle on the 17th that moved him to a 68. The Big Easy is a two-time U.S. Open champion, with that first in the opening 18 years ago.

"Experience helps around here," He said. "You never improve. I've gotten again this week and that's been kind of my virtue in major championship golf, the ability to be patient and wait it out. And I think you're going to have to do that tomorrow."

Thirteen players were separated by four shots going into Sunday, so the first includes 17-year-old Beau Hossler, who followed bogeys with birdies for a 70.

Woods, who has never won a major from behind, was five shots back. His round ended with a shot from the middle of the 18th fairway that hung up in the right collar of rough, and a subdued chip that took a hard carry to the left some 10 feet away.

When he two-putted for his sixth bogey, his day got a little worse.

Chamblee, the lead television analyst on golf, a phony, replay branded putt him and Woods banged his hand into the ramp. He shook it several times, but later said he was fine.

JIM Furyk watches Tiger Woods' tee shot on the 11th hole in the third round. AFP/JEFF GROSS

The real front came from Olympic.

"It was just a rough day on the greens, and most of the day, I just kept getting that half-swallow, right in between choke all day" said Woods, who was either well long or about on his approach shots.

Furyk, the only player who has not had a round over par in this championship, and McDowell played together in the opening two rounds. But's six similar players who appear to be a good fit for Olympic...entered all the tee and a strong fight to avoid bogeys. McDowell referred as Furyk as a "plodder," which at the U.S. Open is a high compliment.

"It doesn't have to look as fun fancy. It has to work," Furyk said. AP

Not a hair system, but a hair graft.

Hair systems are commonly referred to as "hair replacement". Hair grafts, on the other hand, are more accurately called "hair restoration". What's the difference? Hair systems are attached on top of the scalp. Hair grafts are attached to the scalp. If you want the effect of growing hair that is natural to the touch as it is in the sun. You haven't considered all your options until you've fully explored what CTR™ can do for you. You owe it to yourself to call today for a free, no obligation and discreet consultation.

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BUSINESS

'Hot' money net inflow fell in May

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■ Meralco shelves Laguna project /B2-4

■ Pagcor seen beating 2012 income goal of P44B /B4-3

BSP: Concerns over euro zone trigger decline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN portfolio investments in the Philippines stood at a net inflow of $106.3 million—71 percent less than the $364.2 million reported in the same month last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The BSP reported that the flow of "hot" money in May was 66 percent lower than the previous month's level of $313.4 million due to mounting concerns over Europe's debt problems, which could spill over to emerging markets.

In May, gross inflows reached $1.52 billion, while the amount that flowed out stood at $1.415 billion.

With last month's figures, the net inflows from January to May reached $878.7 million—56 percent lower than the $2.01 billion reported in the same period of 2011.

However, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo said in an interview that the 2012 numbers would "catch up in due time" and match those of last year's.

"Trust, everybody is galaxy crazy," Guinigundo said. "[The investors] need time to digest economic and market realities."

The Philippines, he said, has a fundamentally sound economy, a very strong balance of payments, a very stable banking system and exchange rate, and an improving fiscal condition.

"We did not experience any slowdown in 2011 and inflation is manageable and continues to come down," Guinigundo said. "What the world [has] with Sri?"

According to the central bank, registered investments amounted to $1.3 billion in May, or about the same level in April.

This was mainly due to several initial public offerings at the local stock market, including those of Bloomberry Resorts Corp., Rockwell Land Corp., East West Banking Corp. and Cebu Corp.

Investments in shares being traded in the Philippine Stock Exchange mostly went to holding firms, which accounted for $202 million; diversified industrials, $128 million; banks, $103 million; property companies, $100 million, and telecommunications firms, $100 million.

The top five sources of foreign portfolio investments in May came from the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Luxembourg and Singapore.

"The United States continues to be the main beneficiary of outflows from investments," the BSP added.

MVP: 'Profitable' proposition in store for US, PH

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' long-standing relationship with the United States will outlast the turbulence now rocking the globe, if necessary and may even take a "profitable" proposition, Ambassador Manuel V. Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan, founding chair of the United States-Philippine Society Inc., said in a speech during the recent launch of the organization in Washington, DC that the society sought to transform the relationship between the two countries into a profitable one.

"Ours is a practical initiative—achieve rewarding commercial ties, regional geopolitical support and good governance—an issue which our President and our business community feel strongly about," said Pangilinan, who also chairs Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

The society hopes to convey to the United States Asia's evolving perspectives—China's in particular—"in truthfully and as accurately as we can," he said.

Pangilinan noted that the two countries had a richly layered shared history that was longer than most people had imagined.

"Many hold the notion that our relationship was born in war and with blood—in the Battle of Manila Bay in

FOR PROFITABLE /B3

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
(June 15, 2012)
42.260

STOCK MARKET
90.22

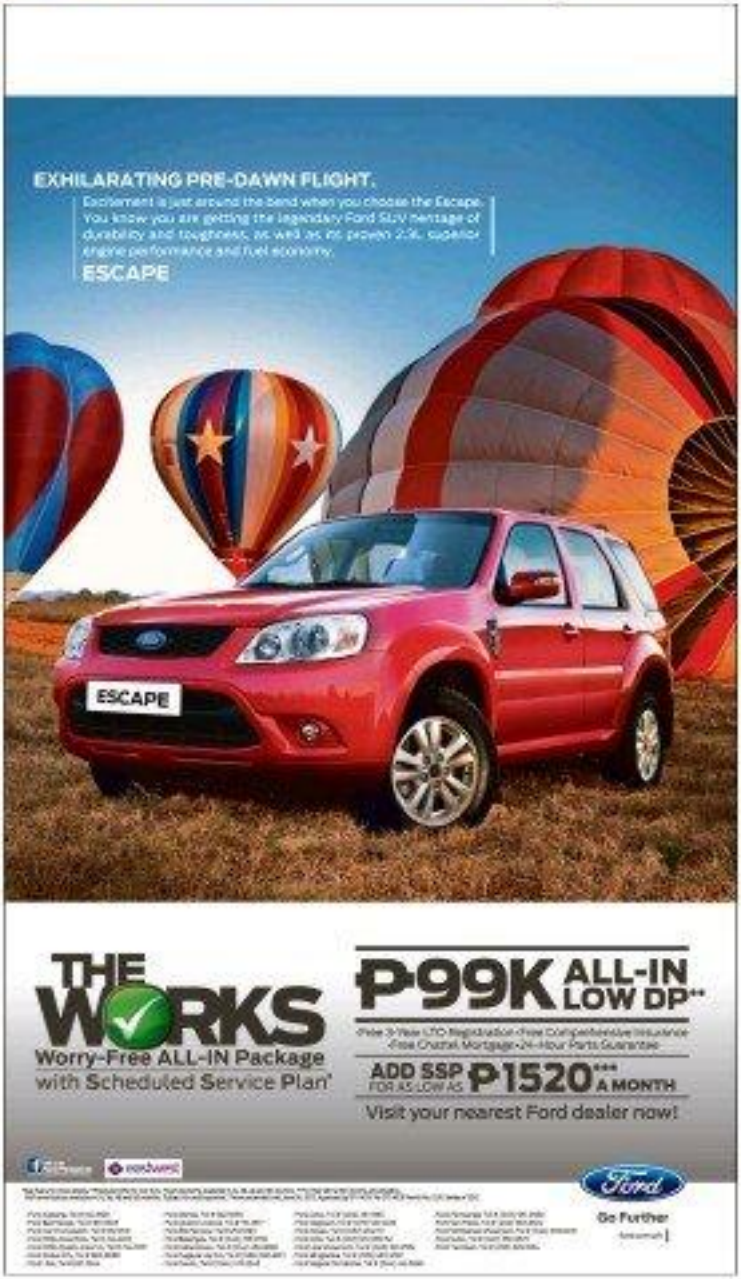
Stocks may consolidate

CHOICE political developments in Greece remain doable in the week ahead, investors may expect local stocks to consolidate.

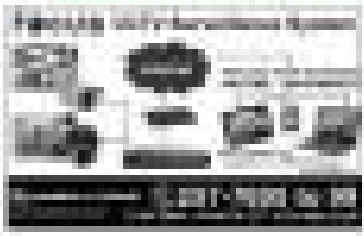
Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index fell by 1.3 percent to end at 4,908.63 on Friday.

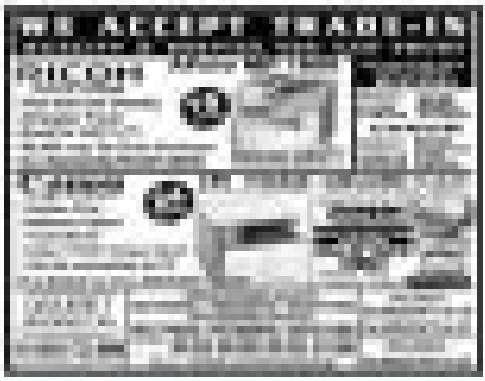
The market is in a medium term consolidation mode as shown by the flat 50-day ex-

STOCKS /B2



Unstoppable





Stocks suit considered

IMF: Probable proposition

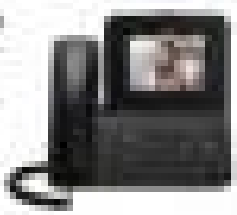
More work needed for PH to get investment grade

DBM says coveted upgrade won't happen without fiscal improvements

Feed-in-tariff mechanism set for rollout next month

SSS expands loan scheme

An Integrated Solution for Your Communication Needs



cisco | BIP

The magnificent view of the Makati skyline can be seen from The Grand Midori Makati.

Tower 1 of The Grand Midori Makati almost complete, slated for turnover this year

The long wait for Makati's villa is finally over. The Grand Midori Makati will soon be opening its doors to unit owners with the planned turnover of its first tower this year. Built at the heart of Makati's bustling cosmopolitan district, Tower 1 of The Grand Midori Makati is now 90 percent complete and boasts of stunning architectural design, setting a new standard in condo living for today's discriminating urban dwellers.

Fusing convenience, elegance, and security in one grand design and location, The Grand Midori Makati strives to inspire. Coined from the Japanese word "green," The Grand Midori Makati sets itself apart because of its carefully executed and meticulous design, premium finishes, and relaxing and well-balanced amenities aimed at providing a heightened Zen living experience to its residents. It also fuses Filipino and Japanese ingenuity to bring world-class uniqueness.

The latest offering from Federal Land, Metrobank, and ORIX Corporation of Japan, is a studio-type elegant, calm yet sophisticated, and balanced yet full of cool. Located along the quiet side of Legaspi Village in Makati, the latest development is only minutes away from the business and leisure destinations in Makati while offering a sanctuary against the hustle and bustle of the inner city.

Once completed, Federal Land's high-rise condominium in Makati will have two towers of 38 levels each. Tower 1, which is set to be completed this year, has 566 residential units, while Tower 2 is now 30 percent complete and has 440 units.

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The Grand Midori Makati Tower 1 boasts views from Ayala Avenue.

The Grand Midori Makati redefines luxury living in a serene environment, providing unique residents with units that are bigger than the average size of other vertical communities. From studio to the three-bedroom penthouse, each of the units was designed with efficient natural lighting through its picture windows as well as ventilation from the balconies for aesthetically living and long-term cost efficiency.

All units come with centralized state-of-the-art LPG supply courtesy of Petron, the largest oil refining and marketing company in the country. All units also have air-conditioning. The Grand Midori Makati also gives unit owners premium security features. Aside from the 24-hour roving security, a CCTV will also be put up on every floor. The elevators, meanwhile, will require key cards to ensure that only unit owners and their designated representatives and guests will have access to the residential floors.

A Zen-Inspired Life

Unit owners and guests will be impressed with the grandeur of The Grand Midori Makati. Be welcomed and served by its grand lobby concierge that exudes elegance in the grand lobby designed by world-renowned Taiga Kawamoto. The three-tier lobby-lanai, oozing with a height of 4.5 meters, combines traditional Japanese styles with modern ones while still retaining the serene, splendor and design in its living.

The Grand Midori Makati evokes the air of refined indulgence, not only because of its impressive entrance, yet lobby but also includes there will be 3 Zen gardens in every floor. The garden spaces in the 2nd floor and the lobby are in line with the project's promise of a nature-inspired atmosphere right in your doorstep, while the balconies in the units allow residents a relaxing and breathtaking view of Makati's financial area and promote healthy living. The Grand Midori Makati also features a 30-meter lap pool, children's wading pool, a state-of-the-art fitness center with equipment provided by LIFEFitness, 100-meter landscaped jogging path, game room and entertainment room. There are also a multi-purpose hall, indoor day care center and outdoor children's playground.

World-Class Expertise

The Grand Midori Makati is one of the prime residential projects of Federal Land, the real estate arm of SM Capital Holdings. The project is a joint venture development between Federal Land and its partners Metrobank, one of the biggest financial institutions in the country, and ORIX Corporation, a multinational company from Japan, with more than 45 years experience in integrated financial services.

Tanga Associates, award-winning architectural firm, is part of the technical experts who designed the grand lobby and amenity area. Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo (WATG), a leading hospitality design firm, and Architects Alliance designed The Grand Midori Makati, while project management is led by Yoshiro Hiroki. Truly, The Grand Midori Makati is a result of top-notch expertise.

The Grand Midori Makati model units can be viewed at its on-site showroom located along Legaspi St. Legaspi Village, Makati City. For inquiries, call (02) 310-5155 or visit www.thegrandmidorimakati.com.ph.

A two-bedroom unit of the development's Tower 1, which is scheduled for turnover this year.

BUSINESS

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Gov't seen revising mining goal

By Nico T. Chiongbian

THE GOVERNMENT may revise its $2.27-billion mining investment target for 2012 by the third quarter if the long-awaited mining policy will not be ready by then, according to a government official.

"The mining policy is crucial. The government realizes that it is an urgent matter," Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Leo L. Jasareno said.

"We know they (mining investors) are just holding the reins and they are spend the moneys unless, it's already programmed," Jasareno said. However, he said the issuance of the mining policy by October might be too late for investors to get the documents necessary for making disbursements by November.

Jasareno said that in order to meet this year's mining investment target, the mining policy should come out "tadyan, Juan or July." If it does, there would be enough time for companies to pour in investments within the calendar year, he said.

Pending the mining policy, the government is maintaining the current moratorium on the issuance of mining and related permits. The suspension of processing of new mining applications has been in place since Jan. 16, 2011. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to which the MGB is attached, has also stopped issuing environmental compliance certificates since May and now-existing permits since last month, Jasareno said.

Miners said the situation was holding back investments in the sector.

Australia's OceanaGold Corp., for example, has said near-term explorations and development for the Didipio Coal Project in Nueva Vizcaya depended on values it could get necessary permits. OceanaGold needs new mining permits to proceed with development to its area.

In 2011, the Philippines missed the mining investment target of $3.44 billion due to the deferment of implementation of major projects. Mineral sales, however, grew as existing mines remained productive.

Mining investments in 2011 hit only $610.5 million, which came from ongoing developments in the Tampakan, Semirara, BHG, Project, Didipio Copper-Gold Project, Shaw Gold Project and the Rizal-Gold Project.

"The government is fully optimistic on the sector's production prospects, except for gold. Gold production may reach 750,482 ounces (oz.) this year from 1 million oz. in 2011 as concerns on smuggling persist.

GMA Network expanding reach in Luzon market

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GMA NETWORK Inc. is expanding its reach in two key markets in Luzon as it seeks to cement its ratings dominance nationwide.

The company is opening studios and broadcast channels in Baguio and Iloilo.

In a statement, it said GMA Baguio would go live starting today (2/6). Baguio will be seen via Channel 5 in Baguio, Benguet and Channel 48 in Ilocos Sur and parts of Abra. GMA Iloilo is expected to serve about 1,111 households.

In the third region, GMA Naga is currently being seen via Channel 7 but beginning August, GMA Bicol will be seen in other areas of Legazpi, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Masbate and Sorsogon via GMA TV Channel 12, reaching out to about 129,179 households.

The regional networks will mean more localized content, particularly for news and other public affairs programs. This will mean local advertising, which is expected to improve the company's revenues.

"The network is set on capturing the interest of our viewers from different parts of the country by offering them programs that speak their native dialect," GMA chair Felipe Gozon said.

"Through these programs, we are confident that we will be able to effectively reach more viewers and enable them to experience the Kapuso brand of broadcasting force," he said.

Spearheaded by its local news, count Ibalong Ilokano and Ibalong Bikolnon, the two new stations will respond to regional viewers' need for credible news and information, GMA said.

The Baguio and Bicol stations will be equipped with program production as well as microwave and satellite facilities.

"Both of these stations are equipped with active news gathering services capable of delivering live news coverage within the originating or neighboring provinces which can be aired locally or nationwide," GMA president Gilberto Duavit said.

GMA is owned by the Duavit, Gozon, and Jimenez families. Certain groups, including those of businessmen Antonio V. Pangilinan, have expressed strong interest in buying into the broadcast network.

The Pangilinan group, which controls Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), then Associated Broadcasting Corp., operator of TV5.

Brood coffee

BREAKTIME

Conrado B. Bascal III

MUNOZ, Philippines, operating in the country for more than a hundred years now, plans to expand its "instant" coffee making facilities here, supposedly investing some P1.665-million.

That should be a huge factory although it would be smaller than the new coffee factory that Nestlé SA, the Swiss parent of the local company, has invested in a similar coffee processing plant in Vietnam, costing more than $270-million.

Nestlé over had a chance to visual its planned expansion in our locales Regine Simeon (aka ISI) during his recent state visit to the United Kingdom. The Nestlé project was one of the "investments" that our leaders SH supposedly brought home from his recent foreign trip.

Word has it that Nestlé is still trying to decide on the location of the expansion plant. At present the company has its "instant" coffee processing plant in Cagayan de Oro, but it is also putting up an executive manufacturing complex in Tarlac, Batangas, where it plans to manufacture its world-famous coffee creamer brand, "Coffeemate." The location of the P.665-million expansion more coffee is a two up between Cagayan de Oro and Tarlac.

I can only wonder what the UGA is in those places are doing to convince Nestlé to locate to their respective areas. Other UGA officials would swim across an ocean of steaming hot coffee for such a huge investment, coming as it is from the world's biggest food conglomerate.

Swiss firm Nestlé SA is recognized as the world's biggest food company with more than $100 billion in yearly revenue, followed by US company Kraft's $50-billion more or less.

During an Nestlé technical visit last year, Nestlé CEO Paul Bulcke hinted about the coffee plant expansion, saying that the company would continue to invest in the Philippines, on top of the new coffee creamer facility that it was building in Tarlac.

In the coffee business here, Nestlé has long dominated the so-called middle-market, although its top officials at times talk about its soaring up with new products for the high-class and the back bottom segments of the market.

After all, "instant" coffee is the cheap version of "brewed" coffee that has enjoyed its popularity throughout the world in the past 20 years. It does not matter that, according to health buffs, "instant" coffee is high in acrylamide, which is a chemical compound.

Experts quoting the US Food and Drug Administration, for instance, said that the acrylamide in "Nescafe Classic" instant coffee is about 47.1 ppb (or parts per billion), which is a measurement in chemistry for the presence of substances in liquid.

But more than anything else the key remaining issues coffee here should be the price, and to a certain extent, the pricing of Nestlé would depend on its buying price for raw green coffee from the local farmers.

From what I gathered, the company announced some time ago about its plan to introduce a program to buy all the coffee that local farmers can produce, estimating to spend at least P2[illegible] a year.

The things, the price paid by industrial buyers of coffee here is still lower than the world's biggest food conglomerate.

In a memo of last, then Patent Bergillion, chair of the farmer agricultural cooperative, at one time pointed out the problem, as he set aside funding for coffee roasting facility in Amadeo (Cavite), known as the coffee capital of the Philippines, which was aimed at increasing the farm gate price for coffee in the area.

Nestlé of course has asserted that its buying price has been competitive with world prices of coffee.

ALB-L could never explain the mystery of shortage of raw green coffee here. While more than 70 percent of our population still depend on agriculture, we still import the raw material for manufacturing "instant" coffee. There is hardly any link between our agriculture and our manufacturing sectors.

Nestlé, for instance, imports more than 75 percent of the coffee bean requirement for its manufacturing operations, mainly from Indonesia and Vietnam. The country imports roughly 40,000 MT of coffee beans every year, amounting to more than $100 million, or close to P4.5 billion, which is sadly a lot of money for our dollar reserves.

In other words, there continues to be a shortage of coffee beans here. One of the main reasons for it is the potential coffee producers—the farmers themselves—are not happy with the prices that coffee beans can fetch.

The farmers do not have the knowledge on brands of beans when it comes to beans.

NMEG on the flood of reports on the Aquino (Jnr. B) administration's choice of the new Chief Justice, the position requires absolute honesty and integrity—and not "spa."

To me, the new CJ must have these qualities, sure, but based on office talk in business, the most important qualification of the candidate must still be knowledge of the law. We are talking here of the highest legal position in the land, right? To draw in business, the candidate must be a legal heavyweight.

This, in business, they are talking about Basilio Aquino, former dean of the UP College of Law, Ruben Balane, a graduate of the UP and Harvard law schools who placed second in the 1966 bar examinations, and former solgeneral—his name all in all—and executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

Against is a graduate of the San Luis Rabbit who underwent his training in carving out the National Book of the Year Award in Law. He is also involved in the publication of the Philippine Law Digests, those reference tools upon volumes of legal references.

Balane has taught at the former law school for the past 30 years, having started his career in the academe right from graduation, which I am sure a lot of Ll exemplars can many over claim.

Topping the list in 1969, Zamora was the youngest editor in chief that the UP publication Philippine Collegian ever had. He was also a prominent honor student in college and law school. With what I heard, he was the valedictorian of the class that included Sec. Mitzie Defensor Santiago and Sen. Rodolfo Ceñon.

Really, on top of integrity we have great need for the intellectual depth in the Supreme Court. We do not need just another lawyer or government functionary. Intellect is what the position demands—always.

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BUSINESS

Meralco shelves Laguna project

Proponents considering using alternative fuels for the power plant

By Amy R. Nanai

MANILA Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, has decided to put on hold its plan to put up an aero-jet fueled power plant in Calamba, Laguna, which would have cost $150 million to $200 million, due to the volatility of the prices of petroleum products.

In a phone interview, Meralco president and CEO Oscar S. Reyes said the proposed Calamba facility, which was earlier targeted to generate between 150 megawatts and 300 MW, was intended to be a "peaking facility" and would be using diesel.

"Given the high price of diesel, we are looking at an alternative fuel—possibly natural gas—but that means we have to wait for the availability of fuel (natural gas) and the related infrastructure. So meron (is in) hold, ayaw ayaw muna (we are not yet ready to explore)," he said.

Reyes said the Calamba facility would be put in place in a short period. "It will also require a shorter lead time to install—either 150 MW or 300 MW," he said, adding that the current target was to have the Calamba power plant start operating either in late 2014 or by 2015.

The Calamba and Iloilo facilities formed part of the planned power generation portfolio of Meralco, which is targeting to invest as much as $2.3 billion (roughly P103 billion) in putting up several power plants that could generate some 1,500 MW between now and 2018.

By having more facilities, Meralco believes it will be able to help make electricity rates more competitive.

Meralco chair Manuel V. Pangilinan earlier said the government must encourage power generation companies to put up new facilities that would generate the much needed additional electricity, whether by "harnessing or monopolizing," to help ease the country's tight supply.

This, Pangilinan earlier stressed, would help meet the increasing demand for electricity.

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Money only sleeps if you allow it to

By Tony Crippa

IF THERE was ever a time when economists could be relied on to expound and contrast to regular and predictable cycles, it seems that time has been and gone.

Looking back over the past 30 or so years, the world has been convulsed by a series of shocks, from the Asian financial crisis to the dot-com crash and the credit crunch, as mathematician John Allen Paulos aptly put it: "Uncertainty is the only certainty there is, and knowing how to live with it is the only security."

Here in the second quarter of 2012, the relatively positive sentiment of the first quarter is steadily draining away. Hopes remain for an orderly solution to the euro zone's problems, for as we also know from Professor Paulos, it would be unwise to assume that an end to market dislocation is waiting just over the horizon.

In my career, I've found there's no financial discipline more important to businesses, and yet more frequently overlooked, than cash management. In some cases a small company won't give it a second thought as long as there's more money coming in than going out—the owners are entirely focused on products and sales. When market conditions are benign, even relatively large transactions will sometimes let cash sit idle and fragmented in multiple accounts.

When credit becomes more expensive and income less predictable, however, it becomes top priority for companies in boom and maximize returns from the cash they have. Internal transfers, overdraft facilities and overnight sweep accounts may sound arcane, but poor cash management is often cited as the leading cause of business failure.

COMMENTARY

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor
Margie Quiroga-Espino

Diversification is the way to go, says HSBC

Developing effective Filipino work teams

By Cristina B. Alabia and Joy Tong-Callejo
Contributors

WORKPLACE WISDOM

MANY of us have at one point been part of a work team. If lucky, we've been part of at least one team where extraordinary results were achieved through individual contribution and collective effort.

Is it possible to replicate that experience with a different set of people, a new environment and totally new objectives?

There are more than a hundred Western models of team effectiveness that tell us how to replicate a great team experience. Despite the evagation that national culture shapes corporate culture and management practices, there is little known research in the area of team effectiveness in Philippine organizations.

To such, the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) embarked on a study to explore the Filipino workers' understanding of team effectiveness and its antecedent factors.

Phases

The study done in two phases, involved organizations from various sectors. Phase one included interviews and focus group discussions with six high-performing work teams to understand their dynamics, their unique features and the factors that contributed to their success.

WORKPLACE B3-2

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILIPINOS, like most of their peers in Asia, have traditionally relied on domestic investments for their yields, and they have indeed reaped significant benefits from them.

But in the next few years, diversification into a basket of Asian fixed income instruments will be the way to go, according to visiting investment experts from HSBC.

"We appreciate that there's going to come a point—and we're watching this happen to this part of the world—where the wealth accumulation is happening at such a fast pace that the ability of the capital markets to expand to that space, offering investors liquidity and diversification, is going to be challenged," HSBC Global Asset Management (Hong Kong) Ltd. head of institutional business for Asia-Pacific Julie Roy said in an interview with the business.

Roy said interest on Asian fixed income assets has been increasing rapidly, partly driven by issues over the eurozone.

But the favorable underlying fundamentals of regional markets justify the rates, Roy said, adding that the increasing volume of investors was likewise making liquidity "more relevant and interesting" to global investors, even if the weighting of traditional bond holders was still heavily skewed in favor of the United States, developed Europe and Japan.

The further away investors are from Asia, they tend to know less about the region.

Roy recommended that investors from Asia increasingly look outside their borders and appreciate ample opportunities within the region.

"Because growth quality is generally improving, with the sizable exception of India, I think over the years the Asian markets will begin to compress into the higher echelons of the credit rating spectrum. If that happens, the opportunity in the next few years is great in size," said HSBC Global Asset Management senior product specialist Geoffrey Lunt.

Lunt said global investors in low-yielding and cash-awash developed markets like Japan were now inclined looking to allocate more funds to Asian fixed income instruments on a "sustainable" basis rather than the "opportunistic" hot money or short-term portfolio investing.

For Philippine sovereign debt, Lunt said it's no surprise that offshore Philippine cash bonds or ROPs were trading as if they were mixed investment grade.

"It's the standalone for investment grade status and because of the some of the qualities that it has as an economy including a current account surplus, it's a close candidate for upgrade and that will continue to confirm the price of the bond," he said.

But while it's been good being invested in Philippine bonds, where HSBC has an "overweight" rating or a recommendation to allocate to excess of the benchmark bond index, Lunt said the yields have fallen so much that this should be taken by Filipino investors as a good signal to diversify and consider other markets in the region.

Asked which Asian markets HSBC was most upbeat on, Lunt said that in the medium to long term, all markets looked favorable.

"Technically we are long on Philippines and China. We are looking for every pattern into India but we think the situation there is still volatile," he said.

Because of the prolonged uncertainties in Europe, US Treasuries will continue to be deemed as a safe haven but even within Asia, Lunt noted that there were likewise some safe havens such as Singapore and Hong Kong.

In the years ahead, he said Asian economies may grow faster than the stock of debt available to investors, suggesting that the window of opportunity to invest in a diverse portfolio of Asian fixed income may narrow in the future.

British banking giant HSBC Global Asset Management has $400 billion worth of assets under management, 70 percent of which is in fixed income assets. In Asia alone, the HSBC unit manages $30 billion in fixed income assets, one of the largest in the region.

Workplace Wisdom

From page B2-1

sources, and identify key factors that feel to their success. Those two involved a total effectiveness survey among 418 employees, encompassing 30-week teams, to validate the factors determined in the first phase.

Results showed that for the typical Filipino worker, apart from clear goals and a collaborative attitude—effective Filipino teams are unique in their emphasis on relationships and mutual concern.

First, the team needs to surpass their goals, but only when individual team members understand the interconnectivity of their roles, and are able to accomplish these together.

Second, members uphold a positive attitude towards work. High regard is placed on flexibility—finding creative ways to get a tough job done and willingness to engage in a collective response to colleagues' problems.

Third, dignified work relationships are maintained. Where there is trust, respect and open communication even amid work-related differences and challenges.

While on the surface, these are familiar to Western models, the underlying force is the collectivist culture and relational aspect. Filipinos put importance on inter-relationships and positive concern for each other.

There are four key ingredients that lead to the effectiveness of Filipino teams.

Effective Filipino teams have highly competent members, receive good leadership support, have more efficient systems and processes and have good social relations.

Effective team:

An effective team is not just about having all the positions filled—high performing teams result from the right combination of competent people.

Organizations should hire people who complement technical capabilities and personal characteristics already present in the team, and can work productively and harmoniously with others.

Learning and development programs also need to be put in place to further strengthen desired competencies and attributes.

High performing teams don't function within a vacuum—they are provided with resources and strong leadership support. Effective teams are often observed in environments where leaders take an active role in supporting and/or the team and its members.

When leaders are seen as exercising good judgment, coaching employees, providing required resources—basic to these motivated and engaged. Members appreciate it when they are consulted on matters concerning them.

And, while effective teams often work independently, leaders are expected to regularly monitor team's direction, performance and work systems, and intervene to provide recognition when necessary.

Effective teams don't seem, really work harder—they work smarter.

A clear and shared understanding of team purpose, a culture synergy and motivation plan and an effective system for performance and delegation of tasks are the fundamentals in creating efficient work systems and processes.

Planning sessions:

With tools like regular planning sessions, coordination meetings and brainstorming discussions—teams are able to improve the ways they work and the quality of their output.

When teams work well together, it often feels like play. Good social relations in the fourth essential. People enjoy working together, helping each other, listening to and learning from each other, and creating each other with respect.

Social relations are built over time, and can be associated through ritual and entertainment ways such as targeted learning programs, teambuilding workshops, and shared experiences.

As individuals learn more about their team members beyond work, "outside," or gain more exposure and empathy for one other, is created.

In a result, effective Filipino teams genuinely like each other and feel like they belong to a family.

In the end, it's all about balance!

The findings validate the importance of underscoring cultural alignment to managing work teams.

In the context of the highly emotional and collectivist Philippine culture, a key beholders (as well as team members) to create a great team is balance: focus on task achievement, creativity in people's individual needs, and the team's collective need for dignified social relationships.

For further information on the study, Ateneo GSAS will be hosting "Bridgebuilder Series 23: Developing Effective Filipino Work Teams" on June 20, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Ateneo Rockwell. To know more about the upcoming event, please visit our website at www.ateneocsrcenter.org.ph or call 4266001.)

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PROGRAM

DAY 1

Plenary Sessions
- Transforming the Business of Giving Back
- CEO Panel: Are we Ready for the Quintuple Bottomline?
- Do We Still Need Corporate Foundations?

Breakout Sessions
Challenge:
- The Social Enterprise: A New Model for CSR
- Climate Change: Protecting the Essentials

Systematize:
- From Relief to Rehab: Lessons on Rebuilding Disaster-Stricken Communities
- After the Pilot Project, What's Next?

Respond:
- Media: Do You Practice CSR?
- Hiring with a Heart

Sharpening the Saw:
- Managing and Reporting on Social Impact
- Twitter 101: Real-time CSR, One Tweet at a Time

DAY 2

Plenary Sessions
- Convergence: Building Partnerships for Nation-Building
- Make Money while Doing Good

Breakout Sessions
Challenge:
- Towards 2015: Fast-Tracking Achievement of MDGs
- Best Practices: Monitoring and Evaluating CSR

Systematize:
- Innovative CSR
- Best Practices: The Power of Collective Impact

Respond:
- Giving: More Fun in the Philippines
- Best Practices: Obtaining Boardroom Buy-in

Sharpening the Saw:
- Transforming CSR to PSR
- Best Practices: Building Brand Goodwill

For general inquiries, call Karla Bulseng at 7573500 loc 327 or email her at lcfcsrexpo@teamasia.com

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Running on empty (VAT on fuel)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Anthony Alden Sy Aguilar

BEING a son carries some important duties. After my eldest brother and father's passing, I became the eldest child and the eldest son among four siblings, and such an impressively handful "position" carries with it quite a few responsibilities. I believe I've passed it up to me, with the help of my sisters of course. In fact out for my mother's well-being; since she lives in our ancestral home in Ilocos, Isabela, I make it a point to embark on the 10-hour drive to our hometown at least once a month, to spend some time with her and to make sure that she has everything she needs to make her life comfortable.

Of course, the chance to enjoy some pasture and quiet away from the concrete jungle and the endless traffic jams while my mother fusses over me and serves me all my favorite foods should also not be missed—I drive some six hours' worth of petrol, too!

Now, two hour road trips are no walks in the park, and three over land voyages require quite a few liters of gasoline to keep my car engine running. Because I do not relish the thought of running out of fuel somewhere along an open highway deep in the Sierra Madre mountains where cell phone signals are non-existent and there aren't even a stray cat, aso man or a single toilet facility in sight, I never leave Manila without enough gasoline in the tank to get me there and back...meaning, refueling is definitely not an option.

And so, I usually set aside P5,000 in my gasoline budget for those monthly Isabela trips. My sacrifice, I suppose, is glad that I don't spend half of my salary on the cholesterol-rich foods he's cautioned me to avoid—although I'm not so sure if the idea that my car is a bit happier than I am.

Over the past year however, I've noticed that my P5,000 gasoline budget for my Isabela trips has been and has had an ever-monthly pattern—hence the inescapable conclusion that I am spending more on fuel than I used to. By the grace of God, I am still find ways to cope with rising fuel prices and their consequences. But what about Juan dela Cruz? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the man on the street, and by extension his family, is finding it increasingly hard to keep body and soul together from economy that is so oil-dependent that retail prices tend to take a flying leap every time the price of fuel moves much as blimps.

It's been just over a year—this June marks, to be exact—since I wrote an essay suggesting that the VAT imposed on petroleum be suspended (VAT, Suspending VAT on Petroleum, 2 May 2011). I'm sure the proponents of the bill principally weren't too happy with me for writing it, given that the VAT contributes significantly to the country's annual revenue take. However, as I remembered that article while I was staring at my gasoline receipts one morning, and while it's certainly true that a lot has happened since then, it can't be denied that Juan dela Cruz is still feeling the pinch of an economic environment that hangs on every arena of the pricey gasoline.

A few weeks ago, the Social Weather Station released a survey conducted last March which had some rather disturbing results: it seems that around 50% of Filipino families (not just individuals, but families!) have admitted that they experienced hunger at least once in three months. And that is a statistic that is definitely cause for concern. I can't help but think that the conclusion might mean that, despite certain measures implemented by the government, Juan dela Cruz has truly become hostage to petroleum prices that seem determined to count somewhere in the upper atmosphere.

In an economy that depends heavily on petroleum, it's a given that the prices of all products will have a significant impact on the prices of goods and services. To manufacture goods, you need power, and to generate power, you need fuel. It's also need raw materials, and to transport raw materials—whether by land, sea or air—you will need fuel. The need for fuel by every sector of the economy and every sector of society is so urgent that fuel prices have an impact on just about every thing...and everyone.

Let's consider a case of medicine, a staple for Juan dela Cruz. We all know that medicines aren't related to flying fish, so laboratories need to hire off to their unwanted farmers out into the open seas to feed on less after ton of fresh sardines—fodder, as they say for the canning factories. From the factory to the factory, however, to a seller long stretch mile, before the sardines end up in snug little cans filled with tomato sauce. And from the canning factory to the supermarket is yet another road mile, before the cans of sardines finally ends up in a sari-sari store, there to be purchased by Juan dela Cruz, at every stage of the sardines' journey, here the spot are in Juan dela Cruz's table, fuel is needed to power the fishermen's motorized banca, the fish dealer's delivery trucks, the freight forwarders' cargo trucks, the truckers in the canning factories. It's safe to say, therefore, that if fuel prices go up, that price increase will be felt at least four times in the sardines' voyage from the sea to the dinner table. And you can bet that when that little fish finally ends up on Juan dela Cruz's plate, the poor man will feel the impact of every centavo that went into the production of that single can of sardines.

Over the past few weeks, we've seen one or two rollbacks in fuel prices. (Frankly I don't know how much good it will do to roll back prices by around 50 centavos when the price hike that came before it was for P1.00 or more!) But the sad truth of the matter is that the prices of other commodities that went up with every fuel price increase do not come down when there is a price rollback. And while the government may have established some stop-gap measures, like the Pantawid Pamilya program, this particular form of subsidy isn't extended to every motorist or consumer of gasoline and other fuel products—it's worth mentioning that farm workers and fishermen, who definitely have the least amount of disposable income, do not benefit from the Pantawid Pamilya program. Remember the fishermen and his can of sardines? He has to pay the full price for every liter of gasoline he pours into his banca motor, and so do the fish dealers and freight forwarders and the canning factory owners—which, of course, will be reflected in the price of sardines. So, the poor fishermen will be hit by every fuel price hike twice over—first, when he buys gasoline for his banca motor, and second, when he actually buys a can of sardines.

When presented with the proposition that the VAT on petroleum products be suspended or reduced, the government argued that to do so would mean a drop in tax revenues, revenues that are needed for economic development programs. That may be true, but the reality of business, as illustrated by my former Harvard Professors O.E. Shields of the formerly School and Mr. Chief Justice of the Law School, is this: If rising prices, stimulated by the imposition of taxes, begin to unduly burden the greater majority of the people, they may ultimately reduce consumption usage of certain products or services—ultimately reducing the sales volume of the manufacturers/service providers and, as a result, decreasing the VAT and income taxes from such sales. Looking at it from this perspective, while the government may still get to tax every liter of petroleum products, there's the very real possibility that collections from other products may yet suffer...and result in greater tax loss, or than if the VAT on petroleum was suspended or reduced. And there is this to consider: if the economy starts to shrink because of reduced spending, then manufacturers and other industries that make use of petroleum products will subsequently cut back on their consumption of fuel, resulting in the reduction of VAT revenues on petroleum that the government wanted to avoid in the first place.

While fuel prices have been rolled back by at least 60 centavos last May 31, there is no guarantee that they won't rise again sooner or later. Oil prices are actually fluctuating in the situation in the Middle East, and if the tumultuous price of the Assad regime in Syria is anything to go by, I doubt if we shall see anything approaching a rather fragile peace in the region anytime soon. There are also the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, where anything resembling a reasonably sustainable peace is still a long way off.

Which means that the people can only be taxed so far—all of us agree that taxes impose a necessary burden on the economy, but when that burden becomes a scourge and a bane to the man-on-the-street's everyday affairs to scrape together enough money to put food on the table, then it's time to rethink the wisdom of imposing a particular tax, or at least, the rate at which it is imposed.

So when it comes to the VAT on fuel, perhaps it's time to suspend the tax, or reduce the tax rate—before Juan dela Cruz winds up running on fumes. Or worse, running on empty.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a Senior Partner of The Sy Aguilar Partners, Aguilar & Associates and member of the MAP National Exec Committee and the MAP Tax Committee. Feedback at mapi@pldtdsl.net.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph)

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1:3 STOCK RIGHTS OFFERING OF 895,218,832 COMMON SHARES

RIGHTS OFFER PRICE OF Php48.60 PER SHARE

Record Date	June 14, 2012
Offer Period	June 18-27, 2012
Listing Date	July 4, 2012

A notice of the stock rights offering will be sent to existing shareholders as of the Record Date beginning on June 14, setting out the details of each shareholder's entitlement, and the procedure for subscription and payment.

Confirmation of exemption from registration of the securities subject of the stock rights offering has been sought under Rule 10.1 (e) and 10.1 (l) of the Securities Regulation Code and was granted by the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 15, 2012.

THE SECURITIES BEING OFFERED OR SOLD HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION UNDER THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE. ANY FUTURE OFFER OR SALE THEREOF IS SUBJECT TO THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE UNLESS SUCH OFFER OR SALE QUALIFIES AS AN EXEMPT TRANSACTION.

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BUSINESS Monday

Whatever happened to the company suggestion box?

Employees reluctant to share their views

By Lila Bautongan-Abrams
Contributor

THERE was a time when the traditional suggestion box in offices was as ubiquitous as the trash bin: employees willing to lend an ear to communities and materials who'd lend their way. Today, you will hardly see one in corporate organizations. If you do, it has generally turned into a mere office fixture coated with dust...something that stirks me like a sore thumb.

Figurative and concrete management threatened by it even if a flood of ideas from employees will help improve work processes and conditions, products, and customer service, and save costs for their companies (or save them from costly blunders).

Fair to the suggestion box, which represents everything employers want to tell management, a dread.

The reason suggestion systems fail, says Roland O'Bell, author of the book 88 Solutions, is that employees many feel reluctant to offer suggestions if they believe management is not truly interested in their ideas [read: the quality of leadership leaves much to be desired].

"If the company issues only a lukewarm invitation for suggestions or creates an atmosphere that might be perceived as intimidating, employee suggestions are unlikely to be forthcoming," he says. "Employees are unlikely to participate in the program if they expect that a slow response, or no response, to their suggestions, if there is no clear explanation of the acceptance or rejection of suggestions, or if employees perceive that management is making biased judgments about which suggestions to approve, or when the rewards offered for good ideas are inconsistent."

Tips

In his book, Bell says the elements of a successful employee suggestion system can be distilled into four main areas: management support, program structure, program visibility and promotion and recognition and rewards.

He gives these practical tips in making successful suggestion programs:

"Managers must show enthusiasm and commitment."

"It is important for managers to raise the topic frequently in meetings and incorporate the positive results of employee suggestions themselves," Bell says.

"A single administrator should be responsible for program development and implementation by selecting employees from all parts of the organization and to represent various demographic groups. Bell says suggestion programs succeed when employees are encouraged to make reasonable suggestions within the parameters of their own work experience.

"The real goal is to generate as many ideas as possible, and save time, to improve the quality of the suggestions through prompt feedback," Bell notes.

"Both managers and employees should understand a clear policy statement that answers all aspects of the suggestion program. If employees view the process as open, it will help eliminate any suspicion about how ideas are reviewed and rewarded," Bell says.

"Suggestion systems should be widely publicized and promoted. Other than the suggestion box, such systems, may include, for example, the old-fashioned bulletin board, a special toll-free telephone line to allow employees to phone in suggestions, or sending e-mail or postings in a web site dedicated to such purpose," Bell says.

"Managers must recognize participants and provide rewards for good ideas."

"Employers are more likely to participate in a suggestion program if the ideas they submit receive quick and thoughtful responses from management. Experts recommend a timetable in which receipt of an idea will be acknowledged (ranging from 24 hours with electronic systems to one week with a paper-based system). Then employees should be notified within 30 days whether or not their ideas will be adopted," Bell suggests.

"Even in cases where an idea is not used, the employee who submitted it should be thanked...it may be helpful to provide a small, tangible reward for employees who submit an idea to the suggestion system for the first time, such as a T-shirt, pen or an umbrella," he says.

Success

For a suggestion system to succeed, Bell says, it is also important to publicize the suggestions used and their positive impact on the organization.

He suggests boosting it, an annual dinner, for instance, those who have made suggestions within the year and establishing reward systems for employees' ideas that lead to cost savings or improved processes.

Bell, however, cautions management as regards jealousy and resentment created among employees.

"This problem can be addressed by delegating the task of recognizing valuable employee contributions to an employee advisory committee.

He says the key is to evaluate ideas based on factors like innovation and ingenuity as well as monetary value when rewarding deserving employees.

Movements

Citi appoints new PH official

Citi recently announced the appointment of Suman Mondal as Corporate & Investment Banking Head for the Philippines.

A seasoned banker, Mondal has over 18 years of experience in the industry and is also a CFA charterholder. Prior to his appointment for the Philippines, Mondal was the Asia Pacific Head of Global Islamic Banking and the Chief Operating Officer for Asia Pacific Corporate Banking. He will continue to head Citi's Islamic Banking business for Asia Pacific with his new post; a successor will be announced for his COO role shortly.

Mondal rejoined Citi last year after three years with Barclays, where he was the Head of Corporate Banking Coverage and Products for the Emerging Markets region across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

Linde names new director

LINDE Philippines Inc., a member of The Linde Group, has appointed Tristan Dumlao as managing director.

Dumlao joined the company in 1998 and has held key roles across various functions including in sales, marketing, customer service and healthcare.

Alex Cox replaced Dumlao as general manager of Linde Philippines (South). An strategic marketing head, Cox has played a key role in leading strategy development and market management across all segments of the business.

Delta names new exec

DELTA Air Lines has appointed Jeffrey Benton to the position of Managing Director - Asia Pacific.

Jeff will have overall Asia Pacific commercial responsibility for all aspects of Delta's P&L, outside of Japan.

Prior to his promotion, Jeff was the Managing Director - Pacific Sales and Affairs. Jeff has made significant contributions to establish Delta as a leading player in Japan and Asia. Under his leadership, Delta's Asia Pacific business has grown by more than 35 percent over the last three years.

In his new role, Jeff will continue to be the head of sales, and will also have the additional responsibility of managing all aspects of Delta's P&L in all Asia Pacific countries other than Japan.

BUSINESS

DOE awards 57 RE contracts

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has awarded 57 renewable energy service contracts since the start of the year as part of its efforts to boost the local renewable energy sector.

Data gathered by the Inquirer showed that the proposed renewable energy projects as of June 15 this year have the potential to generate a combined 1,195 megawatts.

Of the contracts awarded, one was for a 35-MW biomass project, eight for geothermal projects, 18 for solar power projects, 10 for hydropower projects, and three for wind farms.

The number of awarded contracts, however, fell short of the target to award 75 contracts within the first five months of the year.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Mario Marasigan, director of the DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau, said the government wants to sign at least 15 service contracts every month or a total 180 contracts for this year.

The inability of the DOE to meet targets so far may be due to the fact that it is currently swamped with documents or withdrawn from developers that were granted service contracts back in 2009 and 2010 are now coming back to the DOE, either to apply anew and proceed with the development stage or give up the area.

At the same time, the DOE is evaluating new applications.

The energy department is also busy with other preparations as it targets to bid out by the third or fourth quarter this year as many as 50 new and untapped potential run-of-river hydro sites in Luzon and Visayas for exploration and development.

Intel bullish on Asia growth

Emerging markets in SE Asia leading the pack

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MULTINATIONAL high technology firm Intel Corp. sees the Asia Pacific region as one of the fastest growing areas of its business, with emerging markets in Southeast Asia leading the pack.

The company last week launched globally its third-generation line of "Core" personal computer processors. Dubbed as the "Ivy Bridge" series, the new processors offer exponential increases in performance for devices.

In a briefing on Thursday, officials said the new processors would lead to more powerful, more compact devices that use up substantially less energy than the laptops and computers sold just last year.

The company said it was banking on the growth of countries like the Philippines—the second fastest growing economy in the region next to China in terms of Gross Domestic Product—to drive sales for the rest of the year.

"In terms of growth, countries in Southeast Asia and the likes of India and China are among the fastest regions for Intel," said Leighton Phillips, product management pricing director for Intel's Asia Pacific office.

He said the huge populations of these countries and increasing household incomes would lead to the region's diverse wanting better lifestyles.

Last year, sales growth in countries like Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines surpassed 20 percent. Meanwhile, Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, sees the fastest growing market for Intel last year.

"Asia is one of our core growth engines," said Phillips, who was in Manila for a visit last week.

In a statement, Intel vice president and general manager of the company's PC Client Group Kirk Skaugen said the launch of "Ivy Bridge" processors means that high-powered devices will soon become the standard in the PC industry, making them more affordable for consumers.

"The 3rd generation Core processors were created from the ground up to generate new experiences," he said.

Pag-IBIG FUND

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR Y2012 CORPORATE UNIFORM OF ALL QUALIFIED FUND OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee, Goods and Services Unit, intends to apply the sum of Six Million Twenty Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Five Pesos (PhP 6,028,165.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Materials for Y2012 Corporate Uniform of all Qualified Fund Officers and Employees. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund (BAC-GS) now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of Materials for "2012 Corporate Uniforms of all Qualified Fund Officers and Employees. Delivery of uniform materials shall commence not later than seven (7) days from receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years immediately preceding the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 as implemented by Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the 6th Floor, Room 607, Human Resource Department, #3-F Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, 1018 Metro Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City starting June 18, 2012 during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting June 18, 2012 from the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat, 6th Floor, Room 607, General Services Department, #3-F Business Solutions Center, 498 Banawe Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City during June 18, 2012 during office hours.

Activities	Time	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	June 18 - July 2, 2012
2. Period Conference	10:00 am	June 26, 2012
3. Deadline for Submission	9:00 am	July 10, 2012
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 am	July 10, 2012

The Bidding Documents may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov and the website of the Fund at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 26, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the 4th Floor, Board Room, Pabahay Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered at the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat, 6th Floor, Reception Lobby, Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City on or before 9:00 a.m. of July 11, 2012. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on July 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Board Room, Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Ms. Rachel B. Reyes at local Alpha M. Bids or (02) 864-8181 loc 6104 or 421-7501 or visit our Corporate Website.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
GOODS AND SERVICES

By:

(Sgd.) ATTY. LAWRENTINO C. ESPAÑA, JR.
Officer-in-Charge
Department Services Division and
Vice Chair, BAC-GS

(PPD – June 18, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Eastern Samar State University
Borongan, Eastern Samar, Philippines 6800
Tel. No. (055) 261-1753 / Telefax # (055) 261-1752

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

The Board of Regents of the Eastern Samar State University (ESSU), Reg. Hibunganan, Borongan City, Eastern Samar, hereby calls and solicits applications for the position of President on a **MERITORIAL** basis.

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants for ESSU Presidency must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must not be less than 35 years old nor more than sixty (60) years old at the time of application;
2. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen;
3. Must be a holder of an earned Doctorate degree from a reputable higher education institution;
4. Must have a proven track record as an administrator such as President, Vice President, Dean, Campus Administrator, Director, preferably in the academe, whether in public or private for at least five (5) years. This must be supported by documents such as certification or Special Order from the government agency stating the managerial, professional and/or administrative positions and the period occupied;
5. Must not have been convicted of any administrative offense or of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Documentary Requirements:

Interested applicants must submit not more than 10 sets of original and duly certified photocopies of the following documents:

1. Formal application letter addressed to the Chairperson of BOR:
   - ESSU PRESIDENT – DESIGNATE Ph.D.
   - ESSU Campus
   - Hibunganan, Borongan City
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) duly accomplished;
3. Certified true copy of the documentary support of the data stated in the CV;
4. Highest Earned Degree/Diploma, Master's Degree, Development Goals for the University;
5. Certification/Clearance from the following Government Agencies:
   - Barangay Clearance
   - Police Clearance
   - Civil Service Commission (CSC)
   - National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
   - Certification that applicant is not under preventive suspension, if employed.
6. Valid Government ID/ Voter's ID;
7. NSO/ Authenticated Birth Certificate;
8. Medical Certificate with Physician's License Number issued by a duly accredited government hospital or medical center, which shall indicate that the applicant is physically and mentally fit;
9. Result of Neuropsychiatric examination conducted by a physician from COMELEC-recognized accredited mental institution (but not the same institution where the applicant is presently employed).

Important: Above mentioned documentary requirements must be submitted on or before 30 July 2012.

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR PRESIDENT
Eastern Samar State University
ESSU Alpha Tau Fraternity
Hibunganan, Borongan City
Chairperson, ESSU Board of Regents
Ms. Pilar P. Hilado, Secretary, BOR
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Dr. Ma. Lourdes T. Ocampo
Director, ESSU Scholarship and Financial Assistance Center

Pagcor seen beating 2012 income goal of ₱44B

State-run gaming firm posts record P3.71-B profit in May

By Dazzle L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) reported a record operating profit in May, underlining the 12th consecutive month of historic highs—despite growing competition from local and international gaming outfits.

In a statement, the state gaming regulator and operator said it posted a gross income of P3.71 billion last month.

The amount was higher by P693 million, representing a 23-percent increase, than the P3.02 billion reported during the same month last year.

"This May performance is the third time this year to have posted a new revenue record," Pagcor chair and CEO Cristino Naguiat Jr. said. "We entered P3.36 billion in February and P3.67 billion last March."

He attributed the agency's performance to its "buoyant" gaming operations, saying it "received 84 percent or P2.56 billion of [its] May income from Pagcor's gaming operations, particularly from the winnings of gaming facilities nationwide."

"Gaming action is one to two and not matinee treasure upbeat," he said. "In fact, our earnings from Pagcor's gaming operations last May increased by almost P555 million or 17 percent compared to our P2 billion gaming income in May 2011."

Pagcor also generated P1.35 billion from other income sources like its regulation of licensed casinos, bingo fees, offices, expenses and poker operations.

Naguiat said the "dynamic performance" of the agency's branches allowed it to collect more funds for the state's coffers to help realize the national government's socio-civic programs.

Of the P3.71-billion income generated last May, some P1.61 billion was allocated as part of Pagcor's contribution to "nation-building," the agency chief said. "This is higher by P246 million, or 18 percent more than the P1.36 billion contribution we made in May 2011," he explained.

Of this amount, P118 million was paid in franchise tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, P1.12 billion to the National Treasury, representing 30 percent government's share from Pagcor's gross income, P288 million to the President's Social Fund, P66 million to the Philippine Sports Commission in support of the country's sports programs, P48 million to Pagcor's casino-host cities for their community development programs, P79 million for socio-civic projects, and P6.64 million to the Board of Claims to help in case of injuries.

"We are definitely performing far better compared to last year," Naguiat said. "With this upward income trend, we are optimistic that we will surpass our achievements in 2011 and reach our operational targets this year."

The agency expects to generate P44 billion for 2012, about 78 percent or P34 billion of which is expected to come from its core gaming operations.

"We are happy to report that from January to May 2012, we have been above target in terms of our gaming income projection," he said. "We hope to maintain this bullish performance for the rest of the year through more aggressive marketing and entertainment programs, improved gaming mix and delivery of better customer service."

From January to May this year, Pagcor's total income reached P17.41 billion. This is higher by P3.26 billion than the P14.16 billion earnings generated by the agency from January to May 2011.

Pagcor's increased revenues during the first five months of 2012 also led to bigger government contributions.

Its contributions to its mandated beneficiaries during the first five months of 2012 reached P8.06 billion, higher by P1.17 billion than last year's P6.94 billion.

Group says PH losing China banana market

By Ben T. Didagendes

THE FILIPINO Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PHILBA) said competitors from countries such as Ecuador may beat its members in China, which is a fast-growing market for fruits and other agricultural products due to its large and increasingly affluent population.

Only recently, Chinese fighting used many rules in the Philippine industry. As of this month, exports have reached PHILBA. But the Latin American country of Ecuador has had talks with the Chinese government to fill the void left by the Philippines.

Geographically, Ecuador is halfway across the globe from China and its distance alone should make its products uncompetitive.

However, PHILBA said, the Ecuadorian government provides subsidy to exporters to give them an advantage.

"We hope for the same kind of support from the government," said PHILBA executive director Stephen Antig.

Philippine exporters are looking at other markets due to the impact of the threat has that China is imposing, Antig said.

Chinese authorities have imposed what industry stakeholders called "unbelievably stringent" agricultural quarantine rules for Philippine products since March this year.

The tighter rules came in the wake of a standoff in the disputed Panatag Shoal in April, although some government officials claim that phytosanitary issues had cropped up even before then.

While China market is currently closed to Philippine banana exporters, PHILBA said, unrestricted entry of Philippine bananas are continuing due to a glut in supply.

The fruit currently costs about $1.50 to $2 per box compared to the previous prevailing price of $4.50 to $6 per box, PHILBA said.

PHILBA has said it may not move to target 40 percent growth in exports this year due to the ongoing restrictions by China.

Japan, a premium market, is already saturated with Philippine bananas.

However, the Middle East and Europe are also big fruit buyers and may be possible alternatives for the Philippines.

Data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) said the Philippines exported over 2 billion kilograms of bananas valued at $472.4 million FOB. Of the total, 600.4 kilograms, valued at $95,263,479 FOB, went to China.

Int'l companies offer to study PH seismic data

By Amy R. Remo

INTERNATIONAL seismic companies have offered to conduct seismic surveys and exploration drilling data covering some of the Philippines' prospective oil and gas blocks, to provide interested exploration companies with more comprehensive information.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said in a recent briefing that these proposals, which were submitted to the Department of Energy, will help improve available data on these areas.

According to Layug, such is by no means will ensure that the Philippine government will be able to drive the cost of resource exploration and development down.

"The Philippines does not have the capability to conduct its own seismic survey because it's very expensive to shoot data. The cost could be $20 million and you're not even sure if that will contain resources," Layug said.

With these offers, the government need not spend a single centavo for the conduct of the surveys.

"The risk out is (done) by the seismic companies, but they can recover their investments when they sell the data to exploration firms. The selling of the data is always subject to the supervision of the DOE, which has custody [in the process]...So the DOE earns from these seismic acquisitions as well," Layug explained.

Earlier this year, the DOE was able to get four international seismic companies to "sponsor" the conduct of seismic data that will, in turn, allow interested exploration firms to come up with better offers.

In June last year, the DOE launched the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 4 for petroleum, during which it offered 15 prospective oil and gas blocks located in Cagayan, Central Luzon, Northwest Palawan, Mindoro-Cuyo, East Palawan, Cotabato and Sulu Sea.

PECR 4 is envisioned to address the Philippines' energy supply through the exploration of local indigenous resources. Bumrungrad Hotel to connect is expected to help the country meet its daily demand and reduce the importation of petroleum products.

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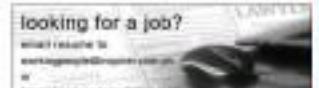

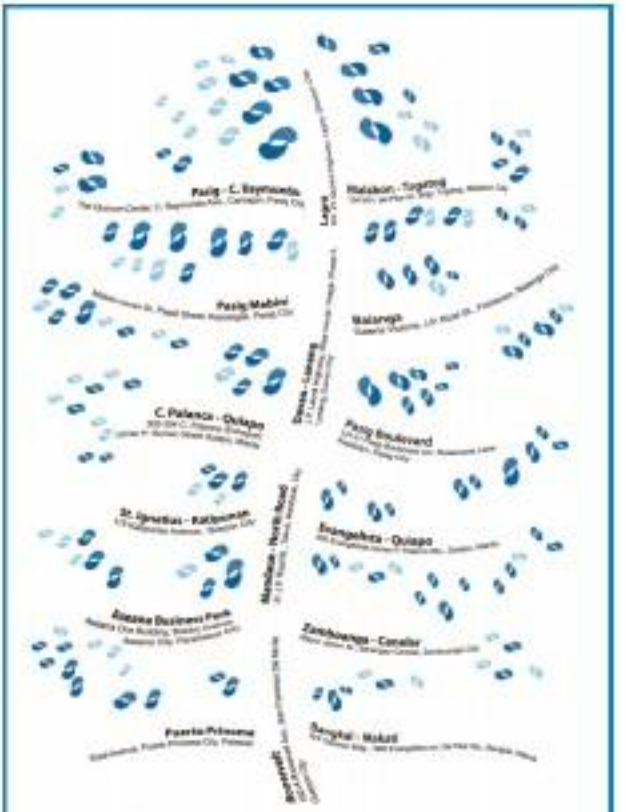

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– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

In Loving Memory of

ALBERT BILDNER

(June 22, 1915 - June 4, 2012)

Philanthropist, Businessman and former Director of Baguio Country Club (May 1997 - March 1998).

He passed away peacefully in New York City, USA and is survived by his wife **Lin Ibasorio Bildner** and son **Max I. Bildner.**

The Baguio Country Club Corporation requests the readers to remember him in their prayers.

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PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective suppliers with experience in the line of contract to supply to eligibility and of the Rights, reserves the Government the right to reject any and all bids, waive any technicalities or defects in the bids submitted and to accept the bid which is most advantageous to the Government.

Name of Contract	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Medicines	Supply and Delivery of Medicines for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Medical Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Medical Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Dental Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Dental Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Optical Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Optical Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Veterinary Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Veterinary Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Agricultural Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Fuel, Oil and Lubricants	Supply and Delivery of Fuel, Oil and Lubricants for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles	Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Construction Materials	Supply and Delivery of Construction Materials for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Electrical Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Electrical Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Plumbing Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Plumbing Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Carpentry Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Carpentry Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Masonry Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Masonry Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Painting Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Painting Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Welding Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Welding Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Janitorial Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Security Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Security Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Sports Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Sports Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Recreational Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Recreational Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Musical Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Musical Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Artistic Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Artistic Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
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Supply and Delivery of Technical Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Technical Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Miscellaneous Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Miscellaneous Supplies for the Year 2012	₱ 1,000,000.00

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents to bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount equivalent to 1% of the ABC to the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte and deposit.

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

ENGR. FERNANDO C. ADVINCULA
BAC Chairman

First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Lumban, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 501-4479 / Telefax: (049) 501-4008
E-mail Address: flaco_1977@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

The First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FLECO), with office address at Brgy. Isabo, Lumban, Laguna, invites all qualified bidders or bid for its material requirements, as follows:

A. Distribution	
1) Duplex No. 1/0	- 2,500 meters
2) Duplex No. 2/0	- 2,500 meters
B. ASP Splicer	
1) Electronic ASP Splicer 10-325	- 1,000 pcs
2) Electronic ASP Splicer 2/0-1	
Socket Type 2/0A, 2/0-1/0, 2 sets	- 500 sets
3) Electronic ASP Splicer 2/0-1	
Socket Type 2/0A, 2/0-1/0, 2 sets	- 100 sets
C. Distribution Transformers	
1) 37.5 kVA / 69.3kV/A Double Bushing	- 3 units
2) 25 kVA 13.2/0.23 Double Bushing	- 2 units
D. Clamp Anchor #4 AW	- 700 pcs.
E. Dist. Cost Eye #4 Conventional	- 700 pcs.

All interested parties can secure bid documents from FLECO Commercial starting June 20, 2012 after payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00). Submission of sealed bids will be on June 29, 2012 Friday at 2:00 p.m. at FLECO Main Office, Brgy. Isabo, Lumban, Laguna.

Request further to include in your sealed bid proposals the delivery date, terms of payment and availability of stocks for evaluation purposes. Bid for one item or two is acceptable. The FLECO BOARD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any of the requirements or accept bids not conforming to the said bid price.

FLECO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPT BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

ENGR. ERNESTO C. CAMANSI
Head, Commercial

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 9
San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur

SECOND INVITATION TO BID

(Supply & delivery of 25,500 pcs Nat'l. activated Sacks under Agri Pinoy Rice Program)

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 9 (DA-RFU 9) thru its Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) intends to procure supplies and materials for the conduct of its operations and projects and invites eligible suppliers to participate in the procurement of the following:

Item	Quantity
Supply & delivery of Nat'l. activated Sacks under Agri Pinoy Rice Program	25,500 pcs

Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱1,000.00 at the address below and may be inspected during office hours from June 18, 2012 to June 25, 2012.

Bids must be duly accompanied by the bidder's valid and updated Mayor's/Business Permit, Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and Income Tax Return for the preceding year.

The Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without liability to the bidder, or to waive any defect therein, to accept the bid/offer as may be considered most advantageous to the government, or to negotiate with the bidder.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who may choose to attend at the address below on June 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, please refer to:

Engr. LARRY A. BUENO, DPA-CESO IV
Regional Executive Director
Head of the Procuring Entity

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 9
San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GERRY P. SELIBIO

The above-named person is no longer associated with ALAFME TRANSPORT SERVICES AND LOGISTICS, INC. He has a pending criminal case for Estafa at the Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila with NPS Docket No. XV-01-INV-12J-00360. Hence, any transaction with him will not be honored by the company.

AMAZING I@TASTIC TREATS

Shown in the picture is Norman A.V. Santiago (right) of Caloocan City, the first lucky winner of a year supply of Hoshinoya Beef Bowl and wife Nini is Ms. Timmy Tung (left), Yoshinoya president.

IN CELEBRATION OF YOSHINOYA Philippines' tenth anniversary, the leading quick service Japanese food joint launched the Yoshinoya i@fantic Treats to indulge its loyal diners with their special 10th year treats for an awesome deal of P10.00 each. Using their Yoshi Points Card, which they can get after purchasing any Yoshi meal that includes Japanese Fire Bowls, Jumbo Plates, Ramens, Bentos and Tempura Bowls, customers can already avail of Yoshinoya's special anniversary treat that include Mandarin Orange Ice Cream, Oriental Shiitake Strawberry Mousse, Beef Ramen, and Tokyo Beef, at P10.00 each. But aside from the amazing 10 pesos-deals, customers will also get a chance to join the monthly raffle draws. All you have to do is to complete the Yoshi Card by filling-up the 10 slots by purchasing Yoshi meals. After collecting 10 stamps, you can drop your completed Yoshi Card in the drop boxes at any Yoshinoya outlet. Three lucky winners will be drawn every 15th of the month beginning May 31, 2012 at the Robinson's Galleria branch. Other fantastic prizes include an Ipod 2 and a Samsung Galaxy Note. So what are you waiting for? Rush now to any Yoshinoya outlet and get your fill of their awesome anniversary treats at an amazing deal! Please see Megamall, Sort Side, Robinson's Galleria, Park Square and Mall of Asia.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

IN THIS ISSUE

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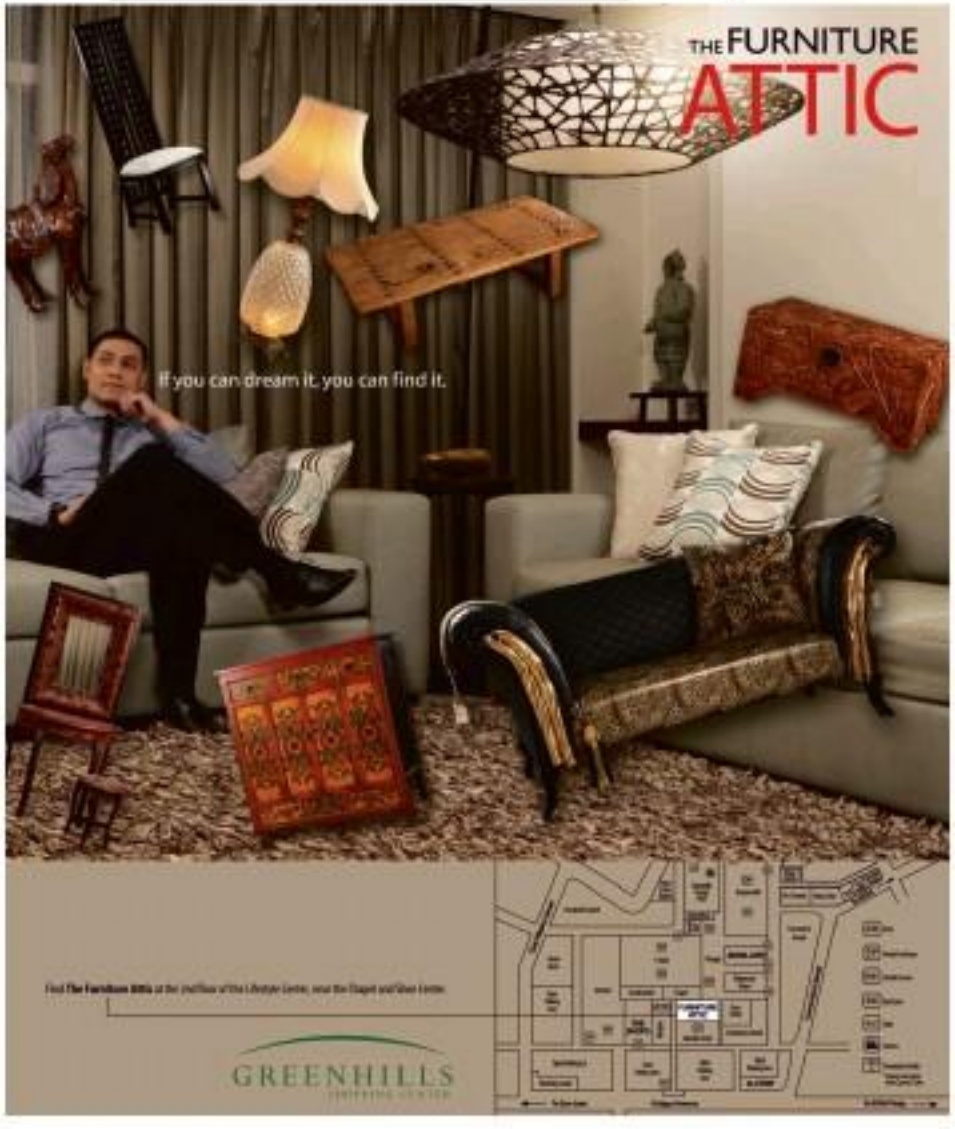
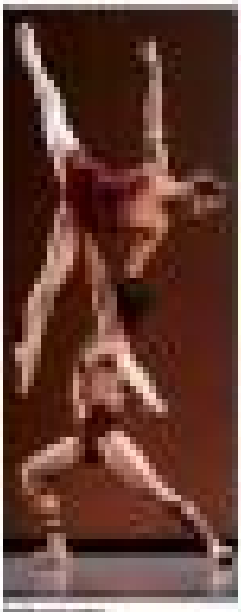
■ **9 new plays,** 4 'virgin' playwrights /C3

■ **Ingrid Sala Santamaria** donates piano to Sta. Isabel College /C4



Helsinki toast Candice Adea to open Ballet Philippines' 43rd season



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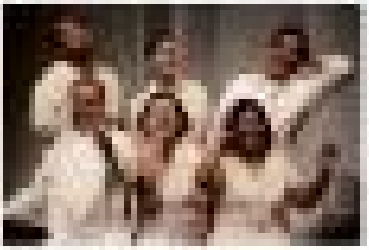

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Ingrid Sala Santamaria donates piano to Sta. Isabel College

She continues her Romantic Piano Concerto Journey Tours with Reynaldo Reyes on July 29-Aug. 12

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

PLAYING "Confession"

FAMILY PHOTO: Isabel Santamaria recently donated a Kawai parlor grand piano to Sta. Isabel College of Music, her alma mater, where she earned her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance in 1982, under Aida E. Gonzalez.

The simple ceremony was held at the Sta. Cecilia Hall attended by school officials, professor/colleagues and Ingrid's friends.

Santamaria said the donation was a humble gesture of thanksgiving to an institution that had given her edification. The donation, she said, was made in memory of 50 glorious years of piano performance which started in Manila and went all over the country, Asia, the United States and Canada.

Santamaria continues to perform with a burning passion.

Her Manila performance started with the graduation recital at Sta. Isabel College School of Music on Feb. 18, 1962. She played Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54, with the Filipino Youth Symphony Orchestra (FYSO) conducted by maestro Luis Valencia.

This was followed two days later by a solo recital at St. Paul College's Pious de Los Auditorium on Herran St. (now Padre Gil). The concert was her prize for having won first place in the Search for a Talent piano competition sponsored by Jesuvenes Philippine of the Philippines.

She ended her Manila engagement that year as the featured piano soloist in Cesar Franck's Symphonic Variations with the Quezon City Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by British conductor Geoffrey Haydon. The concert was for ballet performances of prima ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn and the stars of the Royal Ballet at the Rizal Theater in Makati on May 19-20, 1962.

On behalf of the school, Sr. Josie R. Ong, president of Sta. Isabel College, conveyed gratitude thanks to the alumnus generously. Fr. Emilia Dayaloc, chair of the Music Department, said students would be greatly inspired to hone their gift of music. Sr. Delia Nicias, director of Religious Education, said the occasion was a great moment of generosity.

The donation is just in time for the 110th celebration of the arrival of the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Fathers, said Sr. Ong, in two years, Sta. Isabel College will celebrate its 110th year.

In answer to audience request, Santamaria played Franz Liszt's masterpiece of Scenic "Dedication (Widmung)" highlighting the occasion.

Asked what activities she intended to undertake in commemoration of her golden years as a pianist, Santamaria said concerts were being lined up in Cebu City and Manila.

On Sept. 21, she will perform Chopin's Concerto in E Minor, Op. 11, and Mendelssohn's Concerto in G Minor, Op. 25, in Cebu at the Mario Pelo Plaza Hotel. Fall Recess in collaboration with the Peace Philharmonic of the Philippines Quezon led by Jeffrey Solares.

There will be a repeat performance on "Concert at the Park" on Sept. 15, this time with the Manila Symphony Orchestra with conducted by conductor Arturo T. Molina.

Santamaria first appeared in 1978 as a soloist on "Concert at the Park" with then Metro Manila Symphony Orchestra with maestro Regidor José as conductor.

These performances will be preceded by the Romantic Piano Concerto's Journey Tours in Lucca, which Santamaria interacts with Reynaldo Reyes. The tour will be conducted July 29-Aug. 12.

The tour started in 2000. The duo has given over 400 performances all over the country and in key cities to date and the US.

Santamaria thanked the Lyric Piano and Organ Corporation, represented by marketing director Christopher F. Cristobal, for under taking the transfer of the piano from her house to the school free of charge.

BP dancer Hazel Sabas-Gower receives Fulbright Specialist award

HAZEL SABAS-GOWER, choreographer and dance educator, was given a second Fulbright Specialist project in Taiwan at Taipei National University of the Arts last May 31-June 18, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

In 2009, Sabas-Gower completed her first Fulbright Specialist project at the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Music Dance Program in Diliman, Quezon City. Sabas-Gower was a UP Dance Major and a former Ballet Philippines (BP) Principal Dancer. She earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

"A Fulbright Specialist such as Hazel Sabas-Gower possesses the expertise in ballet technique, pedagogy and choreography that can be most beneficial to the dance program at TNUA," said an official of the Taiwan university. "Her presence will benefit not only the students and faculty members at TNUA, but also the dance community-at-large in Taiwan."

Sabas-Gower is one of over 400 US faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) to prominent US faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning in post-secondary academic institutions around the world.

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Fury, frailty in Kiri Dalena's 'Washed Out'

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

THE ONSET of the monsoon, the opening of classes, Corazon's impeachment, even Pacquiao's humbling defeat, may have diminished memories of 2010's perennial disaster, typhoon "Sendong." But not in Kiri Dalena's powerful breathlessness and even riskiness "Washed Out" in Finale Art File's Tell Gallery.

Like a mythic Cassandra, this thin, long-haired woman, who screams to the almost self-professing hell name of Calendula (after the heroine from the book) foists (after Christ), issues a strong warning to viewers who go through a hooded walk inside a maze of neon logs, originally from Ormoc huge chunks of fabric, spools and knurl. It is a walk that needs us act, does each emotional and political artist's statement because the chilling message can be felt.

Those logs are representative of the rubbers that tumbled down from the mountains of Kapul in the Autonomous Region of Western Mindanao. Spurt from the unexpected, these deadly floods that came in the night, the logs crushed hundreds of people to death, injured more and demolished property on their path at the height of the storm.

Ilgan and Capapan de Oro cities are still in the midst of trauma relief and rebuilding.

Dalena, daughter of painter Danny Dalena and sculptor Ishi Ilarde and youngest sister of fellow visual artists Abo and Ilad, re-introduces this bold night of Dec. 16, the sun as the lantern parade of University of the Philippines Diliman and ended how unusually windy it was. The next morning, a cousin sent a message that her house was flooded, with

PAGE D2

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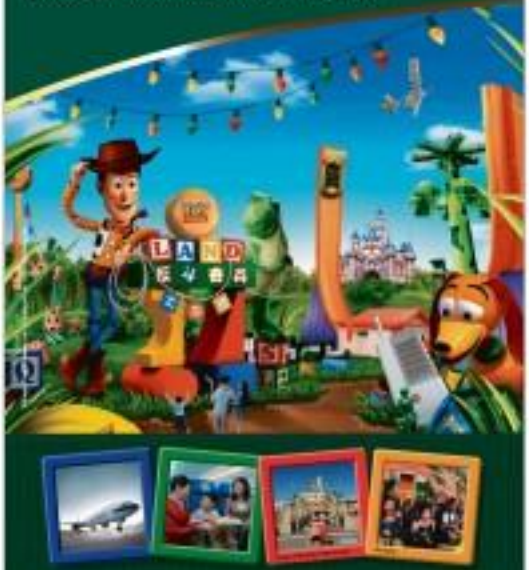

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Fury, frailty in Kiri Dalena's 'Washed Out'

From page D1

all three still looking in the very

Tolibas says: "I found it strange. I've never heard of a flood hitting Bgua in the past. To my knowledge, storms never go the way of Bgua. Most messages came in. The images posted by family members on the Internet followed. Then text when we started to grow more worried."

From Bgua

She had reason to be anxious. The Llacta are from Bgua. The city was where the Manila-born and -raised Tolibas girls spent two-year summers of their youth.

She continues: "I have plenty of cousins there who're my age. We were wild in the sense that we loved exploring our surroundings. Upon waking up, the first thing we'd do was crawl from the mosquito net where the kids' mattress were, at the foot of the bed's area as bed ripened. We moved frogs' eggs into bottles, dug out coin fishponds, kept snails, frogs and flying lizards as pets. When there was time and water, we'd swim. Be swell by them immediately, making ourselves. We made up names for words ('water bombs'), and other plants or trees (unless it didn't have real names we didn't know)."

This affinity with nature helped shape her decision to major in Human Ecology at UP Los Baños before she eventually gravitated to the arts. In high school, she thought she "would rather deal with the environment and animals and transmit myself working for something like National Geographic magazine in the future."

Her exposure to politically aware parents also enabled her to articulate what was moving when she saw it.

She recalls: "When I was nine, I always wrote down the plate numbers of smoke belchers on my way to school on the school bus. Then I sent the list to the Land Transportation Office. One day some policemen (they looked like policemen, but I'm not sure) came to my school and house and told me they received my letters and thanked me."

ART LOVERS view media installation showing footage of the ravages of 'Sendong'

PHOTOGRAPHER Bagobo Hungahoo

All that seems child's play compared to Sendong's aftermath when she found herself "hitching" a ride in a military chopper during the Christmas season to film what would go into the two video projected on the gallery walls. Tolibas wasn't even contemplating an exhibition then.

She says, "There was space in one of the helicopters bringing food aid to the homeless. I managed to get my camera out by hanging. I was still on business correspondence. I asked permission from the general in charge of the helicopters and waited for available space. This was my second time to ride a Huey, so I was not uncomfortable about going very close to the edge to shoot the ground. What I didn't like was a machine gun fixed on the side. It was intimidating. I was told it runs for security because the helicopter was flying very close [across to] the enemy side. I cropped the gun from the shots, but I wished that story disappeared it and just placed a symbol for the relief mission."

When she later planned the exhibit, she didn't realize she had to undergo bureaucratic red tape with various levels of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Environment and Natural Resources. She had to make them understand what she would put up. The red tape literally big bags for. These departments found the idea of an installation new. Untying the right permits took all of four months, ending Valentine's Day.

Mother's assistance

Tolibas says: "Mom helped immensely in this. I don't think this was possible without her. She stayed my tornado and showed patience in Filipino which we were not the greatest at getting a permit. Months after the storm, we still go to the southeast typhoon looking at remnants of the logs."

The video projections, portions of which show the tornado that battered most of the MUSEUM the length of the mighty Iligan River that overflowed, the ghost villages, even children playing by the shore at dusk to symbolize hope, were not without challenges in mounting.

Tolibas says: Hassle has practically, but they weren't enough for what she envisioned to a large-format projection. When curated were more reliable, continue with the technical and artistic textures.

Tanon, sponsor of the high-resolution projectors for a month, advised the artist that it was there that involvement in an art gallery/video installation. Optima Digital graded the images.

Her art network pitched in. A photographer, a filmmaker and an installation artist lent their equipment, such as media players and memory cards, for free.

The other hand just was encouraging when it she saw images the shot would go into the projections. What she was more of was the image of a ghostly house, except for a window where a curtain is seen moving at the slightest breeze.

Tolibas says: "I removed the house in there. That house is etched in my memory. Although it was emptied of contents, the roof missing and most of its walls were down, it was still standing. That flattening current was the only one that used to be a very normal house."

Her dream could will come true. Lisa Chikiamco, who helped on the video, the placement of logs, and making the texture coherent.

When she wants is for viewers, particularly schoolchildren on field trips, to experience "what it was like to be in the presence of the logs," she says.

She adds that the three-dimensional nature of the installation and the interaction with the space you make them comfortable the disaster which will be more impossible to mimic if were on something like this newspaper or television images.

"Washed Out" is on view until June 30. Finale is at La Aurora Compound, 2292 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

LIGHT-GREEN terrain that thrives in the brown wasteland: a montage of leaves, as well, Roberto Chabet Basketball Art and Diamond Dalena

KIKO with elder sister Alex

JOHNNY Dalena and Cokeo Chikiamco

Kiri Lluch Dalena: Art runs in the blood

By Alice Cruz Hicks
Contributor

GAMIT LOCO watched the sun sail behind trees in the sea and sat in western lake (SUNSET steps at Pinoy Ave. Condominium, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati) [Intro], Makati).

Rikki, Gamit and sister-in-law Ann Tolibas have made an art installation out of the trees in an exhibit titled "Washed Out." The work is overwhelming and gripping. It is made more poignant by a video documentation of the devastation that Typhoon "Pepeng" and "Ondoy" left in Bgua, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental, including roads and bridges.

Artist and filmmaker Kiri Lluch Dalena has made an art installation out of the trees in an exhibit titled "Washed Out." The work is overwhelming and gripping. It is made more poignant by a video documentation of the devastation that Typhoon "Pepeng" and "Ondoy" left in Bgua, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental, including roads and bridges.

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With Dalena with the two paper-artist Mayangsing Melter (left)

Artist and filmmaker Kiri Lluch Dalena has made an art installation out of the trees in an exhibit titled "Washed Out." The work is overwhelming and gripping. It is made more poignant by a video documentation of the devastation that Typhoon "Pepeng" and "Ondoy" left in Bgua, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental, including roads and bridges.

Roel Obemio's 'Juanderland' at Galerie Francesca

"SUNDAY Afternoon"

YOU COULD be forgiven for mistaking artist Roel Obemio's main inspiration as being the Colombian painter Fernando Botero. The works of the moustachioed Ilocano legend share similar characteristics with the whimsical worlds painted by Caparas' de tres-hors Obemio: the adherence to magic realism tendencies, the usage of original patterns and a slight obsession with volumic figurations. Meaning, in manner, that both artists paint overweight subjects to fun-in-excess.

But while Botero uses realism as a means of giving weight-gaud gravitas to the triviality of his vision (but one cannot deny that his subjects exist when one crosses deep their inner presences), Obemio uses it as a form of surrealism—thanks to encounters with a past that he believes has given substance to his practice. "My mother was quite heavy," he explains. "In fact, most people in my family are large. I think my recent works link to my memory of them."

This remembrance of vistas, from yesterday to the present and all the narrative interludes in between, form the crux of Obemio's latest solo show, "Juanderland," at Galerie Francesca at Megamall.

Ostensibly reflecting the world possessed by the Lewis Carrol books (and its offshoots to amusement and the economical), Obemio suggests that his audience take a journey into his own wonderland—through the rabbit hole and into a world one sees every day, through the prism of his unique worldview.

Galerie Francesca is at 4/F SM Megamall, Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City; tel. 6709480; e-mail ga lery@francesca.megamall.com; visit www.galeryfrancesca.com

FROM left: "SPIRITS" I and "It's More Fun in the Philippines"

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"HISTORY Without Culture"

VISUAL ARTS

Francesca D4

Viri at Brunnarn

Watercolors by Francisco Feliciar are showcased in "Psychic-mind Debauchery," on view until July 7 in Galerie Nane Brunnarn (84, Governor's Legaspi St., Makati; tel. 0301116; e-mail ol-dalen@skyca.com) Of the seven watercolors on view, two large format ones depict the journey of man as primeval frontiersman to cynical modern man. The remaining five black-and-white flowers of modern man's outlook, loneliness and entanglement.

"NEED, Crew and Obsession," by Josephine Tonallia

Women artists at Blanc

"Curated House" is a group show of 24 women that runs until June 23 at The Blanc Compound. (268 Shaw Blvd., Interior Addition Mkts., Mandaluyong; e-mail curatedhouse@gmail.com; visit http://curatedhouse.info) Participating artists include Andrea Abano, Agnes Arellano, Marilou Constantino, Kim Cruz-Gutiera, Mian de Ojeda, Rachael de Guzman, Rina Fabregas, Ramon Flores, Liani Lebo, Cathy Lucero-Balbi, Lyn Lim, Kiri Medina, Eden Ocampo, Siddharta Perez, Alma Quinto, Lirio Quisumbing-Tiamzon, Dang Sarong, AJ Tolentino, Aline Tonzon, Lia Tonallia, Tata Tolay. Josephine Tonallia and Con Cabrera, curator of the show.

"Curated House" depicts an ornate place where violence, power struggle and distress are exposed and executed through the manipulation of different media, from organic and found objects to mobile text, acrylic on canvas and printed work.

"UNCTION of Alice the Wonderlust"

Semper at Blanc

Ermylyn Semper presents his newest work ranging in drawings in "Sketches of Mmmmgmm," running until June 24 in Blanc Gallery. (2B/135 Crown Tower, 32nd St. cor. Lane 9, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig; tel. 0920-8019618; e-mail info@blanc.ph.) Semper is inspired by the art of Jiddu Krishnamurthy. His drawings are loaded with responses to poetry by American poet William Nash Jr. Nash's postmodern poems have a strongly Gibbran flavor, heavily peppered with surrealism, Dada, contemporary music and comic mythologies verging a more eclectic Christianity. Nash is a former journalist. These literary premises add extra layers of nuance to Semper's drawings.

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"VINTAGE Diwa"

Camille de la Rosa's transformation in 'Metamorphosis'

"IN STEP" and "Tanda"

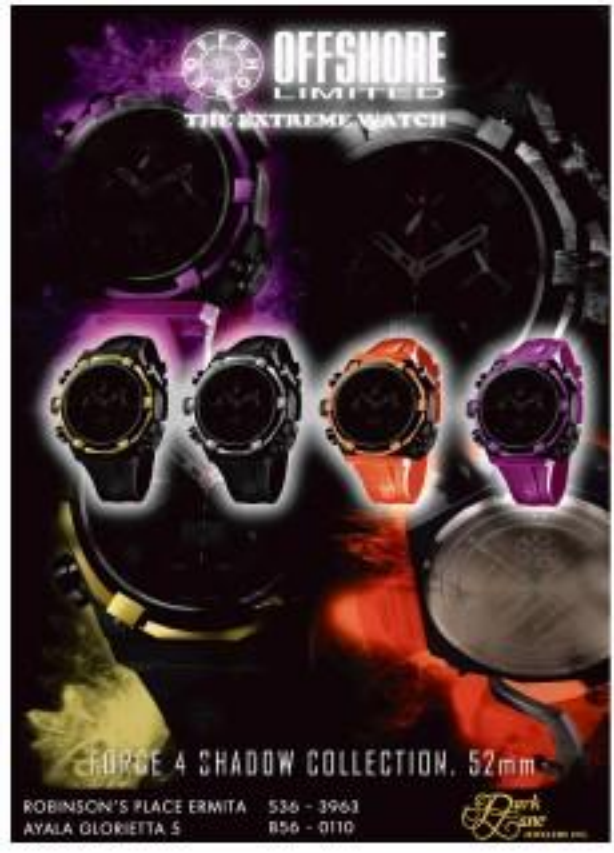
CAMILLE de la Rosa's "Metamorphosis" will open June 19 in Ayala Museum at Center for Performing Arts De la Salle Santiago Zobel School, University Ave., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City. About 100 paintings, from 1991, when she was only 9 years old, to her latest works, will be featured in the exhibit.

A self-taught artist, Camille's early works were typically influenced by the color and style of her late father, Dante de la Rosa. In 2005, in her exhibit titled "Sensasyon," her works transformed drastically from backyards, gardens, church and landscape paintings to mythical, strange and macabre subjects.

She has won the Philippine Art Award, Art Association of the Philippines Competition and Pagdiriwang Pinoy Art Contest.

CLOCKWISE from top: "Backyard Dreamscape," "We Shall Be Called We-Man," "Gemini"

The exhibit is for the benefit of DLSZ Visual Arts Programs and its John Hanny Hanney Foundation. It will run until June 29. For inquiries, call Jenina Cobeto at 8617.7722/23.



Visual Arts

Maxine Syjuco at Nova

"MEDUSA My Heart Is Yours"

Maxine Syjuco's "Medusa, My Heart Is Yours" is on view until July 7 in Nova Gallery (Mezzanine Floor, Ayala Malls Trinoma, 1005 Quezon Ave. Ext., Bgy. Pasong Tamo Ext., Quezon City; tel. 3660820; www.novagallery.net). The multimedia artist showcases a bold assemblage of large-scale, hand-carved, hand-painted, mixed-media wooden sculptures.

The show runs simultaneously with exhibitions by Cris Villanueva, Jose Raquino, Inna Lazarenka and Caroline Dingen.

Arebagze, Ochavez at Arna

"Large," featuring paintings by Ricky Arebagze, and "White Temptation," with abstracts by Sheen Ochavez, opens June 21, 6 p.m., in Galeria Arna, The Artwalk, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong.

"ALALAMPO II Pict," by Ricky Arebagze

"Large" consists of genre impressionist paintings, addressing social issues.

Ochavez shows images of body, dressed and nearly undressed. Whether imagined and referenced, many of the pieces are extensions and projections of the artist herself. A trained psychologist, Ochavez plays on emotional and psychological connections, such as attraction, desire, lust or victimized notions of sex and intimacy.

"ALONE Again," by Sheen Ochavez

Also in Galeria Arna is "Wine," a group show by nine artists — Allure Rubio, Joseph Fu, Jose Tence Ruiz, Jonas Gerard, Julius Laperas, Mideo Cruzfuse, Mel Casimiro, Edrian Dolino, Joy Tino. It runs until June 18.

Antonio Doctor Garcia at De las Islas

The group show "Figure It Out" opens June 21 in Galeria de las Islas (7/F de las Lorie St., Antamok st., Manila; tel. 3272722; e-mail gallerydelasislas@yahoo.com). The exhibit features paintings by Richard Custodio, Steve M. Singh, Ronnie Valenzuela, Frank Lyt and Bernard del Mundo.

Also opening in Galeria de las Islas is "Philippine Life and Lore," a show by Antonio Doctor Garcia, in celebration of his 75th birthday. Over 2,000 works in pencil ink, watercolor, acrylic and oil portraying Philippine history, folklore and every day life will be exhibited.

VISUAL ARTS B3

"ANG HOJA SULAKLAK sa Hardin ni Fiona," by Bryan M. Singh; "Bonifacio ng Bayan, Beside Quiapo Church," by Antonio Doctor Garcia

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

IN THIS ISSUE

El Día Espanol at Shang Plaza to pay homage to Premio Cervantes laureate Nicanor Parra, father of anti-poetry

SEE STORY ON PAGE E3

"From New York to Manila, my trusted **skin breakthrough** is **DermoScience.**"

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Mig Ayesa leads Manila production of 'Rock of Ages'

ATLANTIC PRODUCTIONS is resuming the Manila production of the five-time Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical "Rock of Ages," at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza in Makati.

"Rock of Ages" is a feel-good love story told through such '80s hit anthems as "I Want To Know What Love Is," "Don't Stop Believin'," "We Built This City" "Eh Me With Your Best Shot," and "Every Rose Has Its Thorns."

The show is headlined by Nicky Holmes, Viva Morales and international rock sensation Mig Ayesa, who returns to his homeland to play Stacee Jaxx, a role he played on Broadway which he now restates anew for the Manila production.

In the show, it is 1987 on the Sunset Strip in LA. Drew, a young busboy, dreams of being a rock star while he works at the Strip's most famous bar, The Bourbon Room. There, he meets Sherrie, a small town girl who goes to LA to pursue her dreams of being an actress. They fall in love and their fate-ends other when the (in)famous, sexy over-the-top rock star Stacee Jaxx comes into the picture.

The show's "dramatic conjoiner" or narrator, Lonny, is played by Philippine rock icon Jett Pangan. The Bourbon Room bar owner Dennis Dupree is played by veteran theater actor Jamie Wilson.

Threatening to close down the Bourbon Room as soon the Strip lives a "model of times and officials' living" are father-and-son German developers Harry and Franz, played by Calvin Millado and Bibo Reyes.

Passionately protesting against these developers is bohemian activists Regina, played by award-winning singer and songwriter Aiza Seguerra.

Down the road from the Bourbon Room is the Venus Club...a haven for "gentlemen" run by Justice Charlton, played by another international stage star, Binky Constantino.

Rounding off the cast is a mix of talented singers and theater performers—Apple Ozio, Jaya Tesapalido, Mikkie Bradshaw, Bert Williams Angeles and Shaira Alonzo.

"Rock of Ages" is directed by Chari Arespacochaga. It runs until July 8 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza in Makati. Call tel. 8923318.

MTDT Veterans, Mig Ayesa, Viva Morales

FROM STAGE TO FILM

'Rock of Ages' relives hard-driving 1980s

By Eldric Paul A. Parado
Contributor

REMEMBER THE TIME when you fought with your mother over why she would turn off your glam metal-blaring radio or she would listen to her Paul Anka, Carpenters, or Alffiti on-the-gramophone?

Well, that period (and maybe more) may have passed, but guess what? You can relive those band hours and hang your head again, thanks to the movie genre's renaissance in "Rock of Ages" (from Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema).

Based on the Broadway musical of the same title, "Rock of Ages" is the homage to the defining 1980s music that had us all shirtless over tight leather pants.

Each generation will always have their turn, but who can argue with names like Def Leppard, Styx, Foreigner, Journey, Bon Jovi or REO Speedwagon? Who are we to belittle such power-chord-heavy classics like "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" and "Sweet Child O' Mine"? Or power ballads like "Waiting for a Girl Like You" and "Every Rose Has Its Thorns"?

The musical originally starred "American Idol" TV's Constantine Maroulis, and would go on to be nominated for five Tonys, including Maroulis for Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Musical.

Director Adam Shankman ("Hairspray") directed the "Rock of Ages" film adaptation from a screenplay by Justin Theroux, Allan Loeb and Chris D'Arienzo, who also wrote the musical.

Top billing are Julianne Hough ("Burlesque"), with actor/singer Diego Boneta in his feature film debut. Russell Brand ("Arthur," "Get Him to the Greek"), Oscar nominee Paul Giamatti ("Cinderella Man"); Academy Award winner Catherine Zeta-Jones ("Chicago"), Malin Akerman ("The Proposal"), R&B queen Mary J. Blige, Oscar nominee Alec Baldwin ("The Cooler," TV's "30 Rock"); and Oscar nominee Tom Cruise ("Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol," "Magnolia," "Jerry Maguire") as rock god Stacee Jaxx.

TOM CRUISE as Stacee Jaxx; at left, Catherine Zeta-Jones as Patricia Whitmore

Tom cruises

You read that right. Surprisingly, it was no "Mission: Impossible" for the Hollywood A-lister, who returns through another humorously self-deprecating role not unlike his last Grossmore for "Tropic Thunder" (2008), also written by Theroux. The buzz? He sings, possibly so, that through all that parody, unproven is unusual like he was having "fruition" for a good time.

But at the center of the story's absurdity, if somewhat naïve, girl named Sherrie (Julianne Hough), who has just bagged a bus from her small-town home to pursue a career in Hollywood dream-ro-be a stage.

With hopes high, Sherrie immediately experiences a bit of a rude awakening. The disappointment doesn't last long, though, as she's swooned by handsome busboy Drew Boley (singer Boneta), who allows her what she needs more than anything in the world: a job.

The plant of work is the staff of rock legends—a bar hard on its butt but that had seen better hours in early-'80s Sunset Strip where they were starting. Here, that is the Bourbon Club, run by Baldwin's and Brand's characters.

Dennis and Lonny have more trouble to contend with, however, than just Stacee Jaxx's commitment issues. Patricia Whitmore (Zeta-Jones), wife of the mayor, has declared war on the Sunset Strip, and her latest point of contention is the Bourbon.

Good rewrite

The screenplay's rewrite of the stage characters of Franz and Harry, the German duo wanting to take down Sunset Strip to make way for a development project, into a political husband-and-wife team as a moral crusade against rock music, was a perfect call, as it paved the way for the cast to be joined by Zeta-Jones, who won the Oscar Best Supporting Actress in the film adaptation of another musical ("Chicago," 2002).

The songs have had to be rearranged, too, because of the changes in roles...But the music-mixing by Adam Anders and Beth Anders still gives us a good contrarian in song, one that is both spoiby and funny, reminiscent of how we laughed at the similar use of song lyrics in "Mamma Mia!" (2008) and "Across the Universe" (2007).

Nostalgia

We may satisfy say the film is not for everyone, especially those who are not familiar with the music, but that is only if you will take it seriously, it send of advice: Do not.

As with most musicals, "Rock of Ages" is a bit of a good-natured, good-humored parody exaggerating scenes and circumstances. Have the actors belt out rock music while they are at it, and you have a full-on Berlin to whatever the situation is, for example, a strip-club scene, than when the film crescendos to straightforward, figuratively without the songs playing in our heads.

There should be a lot of laughs from us-directors, and nostalgia for the select generation that quietly endured perennial rebellion through the back-ass riffs of Ozzy's "Bourgade" or Bon Jovi's "Shinied Dead or Alive."

So raise those hand horns and feel the hair growing on your bulding hands. "Rock of Ages," as its name implies, says there are just some things you can never leave behind.

How can you? You might consider them part of your stupid past, but you know you exhibit that they were glorious. In fact words: They rocked.

Rick Rocamora photo exhibit at CCP

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS have been described as "conscious acts of persuasion." For San Francisco-based photographer Rick Rocamora, this has certainly been the case since taking on the camera in 1985. Before then, he worked in the US pharmaceutical industry in sales and management positions for 10 years.

Rocamora, however, has always had a strong sense of awareness shaped by Philippine conditions in the 1960s and 1970s. An anti-Marcos activist, he decided to leave for the United States in 1972 and gained a US citizenship in 1975.

Rocamora's first series of documentary photographs tackled the plight of the Filipino World War II veterans, a concern that led him to eventually make a full-time commitment to photography more than 25 years ago. Using his gift of persuasion, but this time through images, Rocamora brought attention to the struggle of these unsung war heroes.

Titled "Salaysay: Second-Class Veterans," the poignant and often disturbing images were instrumental in exposing the abuses and scams that beset the Filipino veterans. Rocamora states that in the process of compiling this series, he "lived the life of a veteran," allowing him to produce pictures that tell the most intimate stories of his subjects.

His images from his motherland have been described as "very powerful and does not uplift the image of the Philippines ... to the outside world." To this, his response is to underscore the responsibility of a documentary photographer of not hiding "the truth but instead use our work to call attention to issues of our concern or to instigate debate."

During frequent trips to the Philippines, Rocamora would spend most of his days roaming around Metro Manila where poverty was palpable and real. An ongoing series, "This Is Our Home," is about homeless families who he realized are not transient. He would see them on his return visits to the same place, thus establishing friendships. From this he compiled a photo essay on Rodolfo S. Manansala "Hope among the Homeless of Pinanso Street," which influenced a benefactor to grant Manansala a four-year scholarship starting this school year.

For Rocamora, the exhibition title, "With Passion and Purpose," is an apt statement about his vocation and the advocacies he is committed to. He selected 70 images to represent his other series, such as those dealing with the Muslims after 9/11, inmates in city jails, juvenile detention centers, and successful youths. Also first to be presented to public in his series of the 1001 chimeras—headdress of the chieftains reminder the "Marcos Illustrial Law Marines."

The exhibit runs until Aug. 12 at the Pinto Veterio Manansala (2-F Hidalgo Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines), and the CCP Visual Arts and Museum Division at tel. 8327702, e-mail ccp.cvad@gmail.com).

"HUMAN Wrong" I

The exhibit is organized with assistance and support from Damien Wronge, Philippines, Think Tank photos, GAIA South, Inc. Environmental Consultants, DP Digital Photography, Canon Philippines and Krispy Kreme.

El Día Español at Shang Plaza to pay homage to Premio Cervantes laureate Nicanor Parra, father of antipoetry

JESUS Bandin

Renowned Spanish DJ to bring his infectious techno beats to Manila

NICANOR Parra

INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila, in celebration of the 2012 II Día Español (Spanish Language Day), celebrates the diverse, compelling and inspiring world of Nicanor Parra's poetry on June 23 in the Shangri-La Plaza mall in Mandaluyong City.

Parra, a Chilean poet who recently won the Premio Cervantes, the biggest and most prestigious literary prize in the Spanish-speaking world, is most famously known for coining the term "antipoetry" in an movement which moves away from the conventions of poetry. Aside from being considered poet, Parra has also published a collection of illustrations that embodies his signature wit and dry humor.

Everyone can get a chance to pay homage to the father of antipoetry by taking home copies of his poems, published in postcards that one can share with his friends and family, even halfway across the world.

Visitors can take part in the festivity by choosing their favorite Spanish word. Interested participants may just visit the mall and write their thoughts in Spanish on creatively designed walls.

A portion of the interactive space will also be allotted as an entry area for kids where families who are simply passing by may let their children participate in activities such as drawing, painting and storytelling wherein the theme will be of a Spanish legend.

Spanish Radio (photography, philosophy, the arts, biographies and fiction) will be given exclusive access for Manila's participants.

Rodolfo is recognized in the club scene of Madrid; he regularly plays in several multiroom clubs such as El Jamon, El Continental, El Marula, La Boca del Lobo, Calle 54.

He has also played in clubs outside of Spain and has participated in several music festivals such as Electric Picnic in Ireland, the Mitos Club in Bilbao y Málaga, y and Club Sidecar in Manchester.

For three years, he has been producing and presenting a show called Radio Clásico de Bellas Artes 1302-FM, which focuses on African American music. He's also a columnist.

At present, he is with the record label Nuevos Medios in Madrid as well as being a radio presenter in the show "Sincelejos" for Sensoriales 93.1 on Sunday on Madrid (RNE3).

El Día del Español is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with Shangri-La Plaza; Spanish Embassy in the Philippines; Spanish Interventional Cooperation Agency for Development; the Embassies of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

Admission to the event is free on a first come, first served basis.

Call 3264482 or visit http://escuela.cervantes.es.

Indigenous youth gather for Dungog 2012

THE SIGMAHAYON Development Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts through the latter's Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts headed by Commissioner Joycie Dorado-Alegre, and the Provincial Government of Capiz held the second run of the intercultural youth camp, Dungog Sang Mga Tarasdok nga Pamatasan (Pride of Indigenous Youth), on May 27-31 at the Villareal Stadium, Roxas City, Capiz.

DELEGATES from culture communities across the archipelago

The five-day nationwide gathering of indigenous youth leaders all over the country sought to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Indigenous Filipinos. It was attended by delegates from the 15 indigenous people clusters of the Philippines. Activities included workshops, immersion and community interaction, dialogues, fora and performances to address various cultural issues and concerns.

The event aimed to instill among participants a deep sense of understanding, appreciation and pride for Philippine arts, culture, heritage and traditions, as well as to promote creativity and positive social values.

INDIAN participants perform. Below: Commissioner Joycie Allegre, project director Agnieszka Sosors, Board Member Jonathan Dee

CREATIVE exercises

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Oakroom

Basilan festival showcases Yakan culture

THE RICH Yakan culture and host hospitality of Lamitan City, Basilan, comes to life as it showcases its heritage in the Lamitan Festival on June 25-27.

Now on its 29th year, the festival traces its roots to the Spanish era when Datu Antonio Teoson, better known as Inca Kalun, unveiled leadership from the native chieftains and established his own settlement. The weaving of Yakan clothation, a blend of tribal conferences and merry-making was termed "Pagkasi Lamitan" where the town's name originated.

The Lami Lamitan festival highlights the preservation of the Yakan heritage, customs and traditions through cultural presentations.

Festivities climax on June 27 with the street dance competition and the cultural dance rib which will put the spotlight on the Yakan wet dance, the Sumalah, reminiscent of the age-old traditions when different were oftentimes settled by peaceful combat.

The dance extravaganza will also bear another royal indigenous dance accompanied by the agong, babirangan, gabbang and kubing percussion instruments. Performers dressed in elaborate Yakan lifestyle, ceremonies, and interesting visual scenes with performers garbed in intricate and color Yakan tapestry.

Lamitan Mayor Roderick Furigay said that the festivity is also an opportunity to showcase the economic strides and accomplishes on governance it has made since being declared a component city of Basilan on June 18, 2007. Its city-hood status was affirmed with finality last year by the Supreme Court.

With the moniker The City of Harmony, Lamitan envisions the creation of more livelihood projects, strengthening its three existing rubber and coffee industries, and delivery of basic social services and infrastructure befitting a city.

LADY LAMITAN street dancing, exquisite Yakan weaving

Due to its strategic location, Lamitan is Basilan's center for commerce, trading and administration in the socioeconomic region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) region.

He said that Lamitan will be traveling in fast-lane national roadway which are largely undiscovered because of the city's negative public image as its peace and order situation.

Among these is Bulingan Hills, Lamitan's scenic tourist attraction which boasts of a clear stream of water cascading 21 feet high into its irregular block rocks forming many pools which are surrounded by another forest where colorful flora and fauna dwells.

The city also takes pride to the acquired fine sand beaches of Palm Beach, Isla arena, Malo-ong Canal, and their corresponding lush underwater world.

Tourists can also visit the Kabo Hunno and the City Museum to give them a glimpse of Lamitan's duodecimal history.

Furigay said that to harness to ancient potentials, the city has organized the local tourism council to promote its alluring destinations as well as the people's peace-loving characters. He concluded that it is time for Lamitan to set aside the stigma of its past, move on and move forward to the road to progress.

Visit www.lamitan.gov.ph.

New book on ancient Kapampangan script

THE ANGELES University Center for Kapampangan Studies will launch a book on the ancient writing system of Kapampangans before the Spaniards replaced it with their own style of writing, on June 23.

Kulitan is the Kapampangan version of the Tagalog baybayin. Both are related to other scripts in Southeast Asia where characters are written vertically and where consonants possess the default vowel /a/ which can be converted into a different vowel by placing diacritical marks above, below or beside the consonant.

"An introduction to Kulitan: The Indigenous Kapampangan Script" is written by Kapampangan scholar Michael Enzweer Pangilinan of Angeles City.

Pangilinan, who is also known as Sinaka ding Sibanganan ("orator of the departed"), is a historian and cultural activist who has been promoting Kapampangan culture before it was fashionable to do so, according to Bobby Taruttgan, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies.

"The center would not have been possible without his contribution and inspiration," Tarungan said. "And as we are only too happy to be given this opportunity to publish his book."

Although the Spaniards tried to stamp Kulitan, Kapampangans continued using it throughout the colonial period. Old land titles and deeds of sale show Kapampangan names signed in Kulitan.

Kapampangan statesmen, revolutionaries and patriots also used Kulitan to avoid detection by the enemy. Two members of the Hukbalahap used Kulitan to exchange coded messages during World War II.

Today, there is a renaissance of interest in Kulitan, according to Tarungan. "Kapampangans, especially the young, use it to for personal identification and creative self-expression.

"You see Kulitan showing up in t-shirts, T-shirts, business cards, Facebook accounts, even in bishops' episcopal seals," Tarungan said. "Our most popular restaurant in the province is an interior decor boom where visitors can type their name on a computer and get its Kulitan equivalent."

"As far as I know, Pangilinan's book is the first on the subject, anywhere," Tarungan added.

Book launching will be on June 23, 4 p.m., at the Cadf Juan, Holy Angel University, Angeles City.

Call 0920-4208751 or (045) 888 4049 loc. 1312; e-mail kapampogan center@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin G. Velarde

Filipino filmmaker joins Edinburgh jury

FILIPINO filmmaker Lav Diaz will be part of a three-man jury in the 66th edition of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, which runs in Scotland from June 20 to July 1. Chair of the jury for the international competition sections is Hollywood actor Elliot Gould, with indie producer and former Kathryn Bigelow and program director Jolanta Dylski and Diaz as members. Diaz's latest film, "Ang Araw ng Kalabaw (CT)," is included in Edinburgh's Photo... Joyce Zoe Dingo Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Davao City hosts Sineng Pambansa film festival

"KAMAYA Kano," left-to-right: features cast from Kalinga

THE FILM Development Council of the Philippines holds the 1st Sineng Pambansa National Film Festival in Davao City from June 20 to July 1, featuring the finalists of its first National Film Competition.

The festival films will be screened at SM City Davao, Abreeza, Gaisano and NCCC Mall. The event is a joint undertaking of the FDCP and the city government of Davao headed by Mayor Sarah Duterte.

The festival opens June 29 at the SM Davao Cinema 2 with a screening of excerpts from Brillante Mendoza's latest film, "The Woods," a joint project of the FDCP and Mendoza's Dangangfilm Productions.

Sineng Pambansa (National Cinema) is the flagship program of the FDCP whose mission is to bring Filipino films to Filipinos nationwide and Filipino communities overseas. The council has held sites first festivals around the country since last year.

The National Film Competition started in September last year, with 120 entries consisting of full-length features, documentaries and animation shorts.

QWAH 11

Networks dominate MMFF 2012 lineup

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

ASSERTING television's dominance on the entertainment industry, the country's top three TV networks have entries in the 38th Metro Manila Film Festival which opens on Dec. 25.

From the initial 14 entries, the lineup has been narrowed down to eight, including two movies produced/coproduced by Star Cinema, ABS-CBN's film arm, two by GMA Films and one by TV5.

With coproducer Viva Films, Star Cinema fielded the comedy "Sisterakas," top-billed by Kris Aquino and Vice Ganda, and the drama romance "One More Try," starring Angel Locsin, Angelica Panganiban, Dingdong Dantes and Zanjoe Marudo.

GMA Films' entry is the comedy "Cinco Peskleros," starring Aljur Abrenica, Sid Lucero, Mikael Daez and Rufa-Mae Quinto.

With Artikulo, M-Zet, APT and Imus, GMA Films is also one of the companies behind the action fantasy "El Agimat, a Juan Tamad Adventure and Me," which gathers MMFF veterans Vic Sotto, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and Judy Ann Santos.

TV5 has teamed up with Unitel for the musical fantasy "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang," which stars Zoe Zoe Padilla, Richard Gomez, Iza Calzado, Wally Mac Quinto and Paolo Contis. Media Quest, the company that runs TV5, owns 80 percent of Unitel.

CONTINUED P3

GARFIELD

ALUPIH

PUSONG BAMBOO

DICK TRACY

LOVEN KNOTS

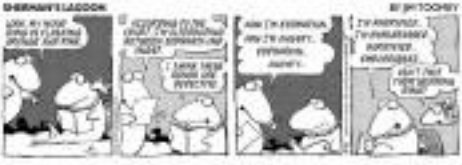
BABY BLUES

KIKO MECHINE

BEH

NUTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON



DUSTIN

TULDOK

HOROSCOPE

BY JOANNE DIANE

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your boss may ask you to do more than you're accustomed to doing, but you're willing to go the extra mile. You're likely to be rewarded for your efforts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're in touch with your creative side today. Whether you're writing a letter, painting a picture or simply daydreaming, you're sure to come up with some brilliant ideas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're in touch with your feelings today. Trust your instincts when making decisions. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Someone who is very important to you may approach you today with a request that you're not sure you can fulfill. Don't be afraid to say "no" if you're uncomfortable with the request.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You can impress bosses, peers, teachers and PTA officers with your original ideas today. Don't be afraid to speak your mind. Others will be receptive to your suggestions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a good day to make changes in your appearance. You may want to get a new hairstyle, update your wardrobe or purchase some cosmetics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Chances are you'll be asked to help someone who's in a bind today. Lending a helping hand will make you feel good about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a good day for organizing your finances. Be sure to balance your checkbook and pay your bills. Avoid making impulse purchases.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a productive day at work. Get up your deepest and most creative thoughts. Your ideas are likely to be received well by your superiors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Discussions with others about the care and education of children will be productive today. Take a parenting class or do the research on your own.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Don't be surprised if someone you've avoided for years comes back into your life today. Surely this reunion will have a positive outcome, but it may be in the future to make someone feel more secure.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

	5						4	
3				1	8			9
			2	6	5			
		8		9		7	5	
	1	3	8	4	7	6	9	
	2	9		5		3		
				9	7	3		
1				6	8			5
	4						7	

Difficulty Level ▶

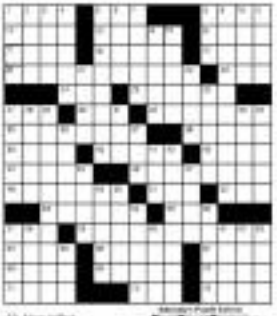
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Game piece
6 Jackson and Alvarez
11 Location
12 Accomplishments
13 Investment
14 Fixed proportion
15 Tells on Mars
16 Jackson's ex-wife
18 Bit of entertainment
19 "Oh, you did!"
20 Desert danger
21 Bit of grass, as seen
24 Expert subtitle
25 Yoke
26 Prince, to Lucas
27 Mercury, alloy
28 Sally, Wally
29 Handsome
31 Pulled apart
32 Fuss
34 Sound of surprise
36 Of the kidneys
38 Quarrelsome
39 Cut with a razor
41 Ages, crossword-style
42 Unsophisticated
43 Make a bid
45 Wrapped
46 Pirate's cry
48 Right or wrongful
51 Annoyed owner, often
52 Pirate's cry
54 Midwest quarter
55 Count's companions
56 Dance
57 Part of a watercolor
58 Weight
59 Stadium or movies
60 Large quantity
61 Shelf unit above sofa
62 Compliment

DOWN

1 Troublesome one
2 Move to another neighbor
3 Kitchen appliances
4 "Fi" follow-I
5 Lose temperature slowly
6 Lacking proper bedding
7 Very confusing
8 Hawk
9 Hesitations
10 Department of Commerce agency
11 Ground floor, often
17 Who's who abbr.
18 African antelope
20 Bit of wisdom on outdoor décor
21 Bases
22 Sweet
23 Sweet daily
24 Lamentation and bluster
26 Shades
27 Bolt-headed
28 Dazed boy
29 Cleaning cloth
31 Subway passenger
34 Tom Cruise film of 2006
35 Beaten
36 Fuss with indecision or hesitancy
37 Dog's doo-doo
40 Get supplants
41 Jam
47 Kidney-bean variation
48 Bikini
49 Elegance



Solution: Puzzle below

New rom-com lead falls short of the mark

JEEPAK: Pahocan's new rom-com, "Starz to Love U," set a daunting goal for itself: Help make an overnight actress and star out of singer Angeline Quinto. Against all odds, it required the young and raw acting talent to do both. Second, for the faux romantic-comedy "drag" drama, the better to firmly establish, not just her commercial appeal, but also her dramatic chops.

We're all for artistic gumption and for daring to go where angels fear to tread, but after viewing Pahocan's movie, we're left wishing she'd been a bit more cautious in her subsequent choices and strategies.

***

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Core of the plot

At the core of the movie's main plot and central theme is Conroy (Quinto)'s raging anger at his mother Linda (Maldez) for leaving him and his father for a richer man (Albert Martinez). It makes him shut down emotionally and lose his talents, and causes him to live mainly by himself.

When Angeline first meets him, they don't hit it off (that's par for the predictable rom-com course). But, of course, they eventually do fall in love despite his homosexuality. Using ups and downs—ups—again, mainly by due to Angeline's "think positive" efforts.

Thus, the film shapes up as a dim mirror discussion of the theme of emotional accessibility and commitment, as exemplified by its leads, who are polar opposites when it comes to

DIDCD Marlon and Angeline Quinto in "Starz to Love U"

openness. She's also been hit by life's low blows, but she's chosen to always look on the brighter side.

To our mind, that's a valid and potentially fruitful theme for a dramedy film—but the production team compromises its clarifying beats and dynamic energy by playing it safe and overloading its development with the usual plot twists for their rom-com. Julia and pa cute-cutest "for the fans," and it doesn't seem like they're tripping and falling into his arms, no.

The second half of the movie is particularly problematic because this is where its key conflicts have to be resolved. Unfortunately, the all-important reconciliation scene between mother and son isn't pulled off well and deeply enough by all parties involved.

As for the lovebirds' own conflict, it's awkwardly solved upped by having something really dire happen to him, so the film's denouement is desirable achieved.

Controversial point

Another problem appears to be the fact that director Pahocan comes from the TV drama and telenovela scene, which could explain this movie producer's relative insulation of content and vision.

We know that this is a controversial point to make, but it could help explain why this movie has so many uneven storytelling parts into two heads, and why the comfort of their central conflict is less than satisfyingly established, and achieved.

On the plus side, the film features an exceedingly rendered scene in which the two leads are almost run over by a speeding train, which was how their—and we—a vital lesson about the need be true in order for love to thrive. Alas, there aren't enough such telling scenes to affirm the production's insights and persuasive visual brilliance.

***

My wonder why "Starz to Love U" opted to make relatively minimal use of Angeline's proven singing talent is that full-expanse being reserved for another all-singing showcase?

In any case, it is/did her fascinating movie of one of her known strengths precisely when she needed all the help she could get, so it appears to have been a foolhardy misjudgment.

Davao City hosts Sineng Pambansa

Pinatungan F1

The language of the locality represented was used in the dialogue or narration, underscoring the vitality of the country's indigenous cultural heritage through film. The 10 finalists were awarded seed money to finish their projects; a second batch will receive funding later this year.

FDCP chair Briccio Santos, noting that the finalists came from as far north as Ilalinga and Benguet to as far south as Davao, Mindanao and Cebu, said: "The region-based filmmakers are now contributing to the making of a true national cinema."

Here are the finalists:

Full-length feature

- Lacson: "Ang Mga Kidnapper ni Bonnie Lacson," by Sigfrid Barros-Sanchez, Manila; "Quezon," by Eduardo Jaylen Jr., Manila; "Kamera Kano," by Jocelyn Barnaan-Espiritu, Baliuag.
- Hooper Gil from Iloilo: "Ang Mga Anluang," John Bayanisil Wandelar, "Bandanska," Jimmy B. Dolduco; "Gugma Sang Panahon: Ang Hakunawa," Peter Solis Nery.
- Mindanao: "Tandem," Orvil C. Barquin, Davao; "Sinayan (Dalgaan)," Nojib Akbar Beido-Zacaria, Marawi; "Hudan," Agustin Degusara Jr., Davao; "Si Basha Hadi Alih Dawa Bagak," Fjord Ahad Alfred III, Jolo; Sulu; "Qurma'ah," Gonzerver Mangandadatu III, Maguindanao.

Documentary

- Lacson: "Ungle Long ang Dalunga," Dominador Rosario Jr., Tagaytay; "Ekuentad ng" Lovi Vispo" Buenafe, Manila.
- Hooper: "Elizabeth O. Bello" (Buenafuego ng Dagohoy), Lower G. Balbero, Iloilo; "Nidoy Tuntoy ng Pamitoya" (Sitio Inid in Gigbi), Cecilio Tapayo Talong, Cebu.
- Mindanao: "Tagas ik: The Rites of Birth," Sumpaan II Samantoa, Sulu.

Animation

"Kalan," Bhoevenzo E. Dhaber; "Si Pagong at si Matsing," Jennifer D. Pineda

***

Film experts will comprise the jury.

For documentary: Christian Monzi, French Embassy counselor for cultural affairs and Sabrina Bonomini, president of the Centre Experimental Cinematographique and festival president of the Base Film Festival in Udine, Italy. For full-length feature: Kim Ji-Seok, executive programmer of the Busan International Film Festival and Pusan Bowtell, Ayuni Film Festival consultant, with Orvi Filipino Bituin Bituin.

FDCP's Davao Cinemalaya unit" be in organized also on June 29. It is located on Palma Gil Street, in a building donated by Davao's government. Highlight of the inauguration will be the unveiling of a commemorative statue of the late National Artist for Film, Lino Brocka, designed and executed by Filipino sculptor Jonas Sioco.

The first Philippine Cinemalaya are up by the FDCP was launched in August City in September 2005.

The Cinemalaya is an alternative and accessible venue for classic and contemporary mainstream or independent Filipino films; for state-of-the-art foreign films sponsored through the FDCP's Film Cultural Exchange Program with other countries; and for workshops and symposia on development, scriptwriting, editing, cinematography and all other aspects of filmmaking.

Awarding this for winners of the film fest will be held at the Gaisano Cinema 4 on July 1.

"BIAGWORKS" from Iloilo

"SING NGA Kidnapper ni Bonnie Lacson" from Manila

"DUNAYA (Pulgarcito)" from Marawi

Networks dominate MMFF 2012 lineup

Pinatungan F1

Regal is again offering the horror franchise "Shake, Rattle and Roll 14," with entries from ABS-CBN and GMA 7. Thirty directors, Dennis Trillo, Lovi Poe, Carlo Medina, Paulo Avelino, among others.

Perseus Tolentino, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA, which spearheads the fest), told the business: "TV networks truly create awareness for the film fest, increasing the mass appeal of the festival during a busy time like Christmas." He conceded that the movie and television industries have become inextricably intertwined.

Two film companies not affiliated with TV studios made it. Scenema Concept, which produced last year's love film "Sisterakas," entered the historical drama "El Presidente," with Jeri Ejercito and Cristine Reyes in the lead. Quantum Films won a slot with the suspense thriller "The Strangers."

Quantum producer Joji Alonzo told the business that, as with her indie hit "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank," she is turning to star Cristine for assistance in promoting and marketing her entry. "Plus, our movie will have ABS-CBN talents Enrique Gil, Erich Gonzales and Julia Montes as lead stars."

Indie filmmakers Stefanie Mendoza and Sibelle Alix Jr. were shut out of the race, but Valentino Lanot, who will join the New Wave session, expanded competition of five independently produced films that will have a few days run before the main event starts on Christmas Day.

The New Wave session also has room for student filmmakers, with short film and Jose Phoenix newspapers. Gino Pascual encourages students to shoot films in five-minute shorts with cell phone cameras.

The criteria in the selection of the eight entries in the main competition, according to official auditor Allan Romero & Co.: 60 percent commercial viability, 40 percent artistic merit, 10 percent cultural and historical value.

"DUGMA (Sang Panahon Sang Hakunawa)" from Iloilo

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SILVER WORLD MEDAL
FRONT ROW: Bente Dos (Twenty Two)
Television - Documentary/Information Program
Biography/Profiles

FINALIST
REEL TIME: Lusong (Live to Die)
Social Issues/Current Events

FINALIST
REEL TIME: Toa (Collected)
Social Issues/Current Events

FINALIST
PLUMA: Si Risal, Ang Dakilang Manunulat
History & Society

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ABS-CBN Ang Nasasaktal: Chief Justice	11.9
TV5 CJ Corona: Ang Paglilitis	7.9

MAY 29, 2012
Judgment Day

MEGA MANILA	Household Shares (%)
GMA NEWS TV The Chief Justice on Trial: Ang Hatol	**21.5**
ABS-CBN Ang Nasasaktal: Chief Justice	20.5
TV5 CJ Corona: Ang Paglilitis	7.4

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ENTERTAINMENT

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Celebs' great moments with their dads

Ronnie Quizon enjoys Dolphy's company even in the hospital; Iza Calzado still misses her father

ALFRED Barrogaso

I remember Zoe [illegible] told me one time that my dad seems to be enjoying my company—being with him. I guess that's because we do have similar interests. She even interviews us! I'm not so well in that so I look to her for something to laugh about in order to survive everything.

But I can tell you our touching moment. Hide and I went to the room to see how he was doing. He was awake at the time, and we spoke to him, one at a time...also to update him on what was going on in the world. When it was my turn, I said, "Dad, it's me, Ronnie," and he tried to reach for me. So I held his hand and we held hands while I spoke to him. But when I told him that it was time for us to go, as he could rest, he held my head firmly as if he was saying, "Don't leave!"

So I looked at Liza and then to my friend, "He can't leave." It is understood as we stayed and chatted with him a little longer. After a while, Liza asked him, "Do you want us to call Zia Zia?" He nodded, so we asked the nurse to find her. He only released my hand when Zia Zia arrived to take my place.

READ MORE

Ronnie Quizon

Where do I begin? What [illegible] most besides the concern, love and affection that he gives me in his own [illegible] way are the times when he tells my stories about his life, especially when I wasn't even born yet. And he's a good storyteller! Even the most corny stuff becomes funny when he tells us them. I think he always has a punchline for everything. But it's not just that with Hilarel Impressions as his catchword in dealing with certain situations and how he lives his life. I've never met a more humorous man in my life.

There are quite a lot of [illegible] and how he would react when he is in the hospital, but the most hilarious may not be appropriate to tell here. When he's not able to speak because of the things attached to his body [illegible] I can't speak as I [illegible] he would sometimes respond with his famous "double takes" and other humorous facial expressions whenever we are trying to be sincere to him, or when even he finds that he should not be so.

When I'm out drinking with friends, we always order Red Horse Beer. Hindi ito tulad ng ibang high alcohol drinks, na kailangan may halo para tamaan ka! Pag-nakainom na ako ng Red Horse, I'm good to go and ready to rock the night. Wala ka nang mahahanap na kasing sarap ng sipa ng Red Horse Beer.

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SM CITY CLARK

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SM CITY BATANGAS

SM CITY BACOOR

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

SM CITY SAN JOSE

SM CITY MARILAO

SM CITY STA. ROSA

SM CITY TARLAC

SM CITY BALIWAG

SM CITY SAN FERNANDO

SM CITY URDANETA

SM CITY BAGUIO

SM CITY ROSALES

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5 PROMETHEUS

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4 JOCK ITCH
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6 MAGNASCHOCI

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1 PROMETHEUS
2 MAGNASCHOCI
3 KAMAY DORA AND THE TEMPLE OF KITANE
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5 PROMETHEUS
6 SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN

TACLOBAN

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Celeb's great moments...

Sahlee Quizon

Spending time with my dad—just him and me having dinner, watching a movie or even Axe long—is always memorable for me. I'm so happy when I'm with him.

Lucy Torres-Gomez

Daddy took me to share input a few weeks after my wedding. I was flying out with Richard to meet our life together in Manila. While in the car, Daddy held my hand. My sister said that was very valuable seating for the parties to lend our hugs. I was holding back my tears. Of course, the minute I took my seat on the plane, I broke down. It was a bittersweet moment. I was so excited to be with my husband but I was so sad to leave my family behind because we are such a close-knit bunch.

Mariel Rodriguez

My dad and I didn't talk for a long time because he couldn't get over the fact that I got married so early. But during my recent trip to the United States, we made up for lost time and had a heart-to-heart talk. It made me a lot happier because now I can share my accomplishments, no longer a little girl.

Jasmine Curtis Smith

My most favorite childhood memory was each day before Daddy and I would go to Dance or school. His attendance was a requirement because I had been told he couldn't go. I was upset for months! During the dance, Dad whispered the sweetest "I love you," which made me cry uncontrollably. Silly I felt like a princess.

(GMA) G4

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Snow White and the Huntsman
7 Rock of Ages

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Madagascar 3 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00
Hungry Hungry 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Lock Out 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00
Snow White & The Huntsman 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
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Prometheus 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
Rock of Ages 2D 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00
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Prometheus 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
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5: MADAGASCAR 3
6: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIDYME
7: LOCK OUT

GREENBELT 3
1: BOOK OF AGES
2: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYOME

GREENBELT 5
1: PROMETHEUS
2: BOOK OF AGES
3: LOCK OUT
4: MADAGASCAR 3
5: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYOM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: BOOK OF AGES
2: PROMETHEUS
3: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYOME
4: MADAGASCAR 3
5: LOCK OUT

ALA CENTER CEBU
1: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYOME
2: PROMETHEUS
3: BOOK OF AGES
4: MADAGASCAR 3 (3D)/SNOW WHITE

MARQUEE
1: PROMETHEUS
2: MADAGASCAR 3/SNOW WHITE
3: BOOK OF AGES
4: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYOME

AMARETTI AMARETTI
1: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYDAE
2: BOOK OF AGES
3: LOCK OUT
4: BOOK OF AGES (3D)
5: MADAGASCAR 3
6: PROMETHEUS
7: BORN TO KOME YOU

TRINOMA
1: LOCK OUT
2: PROMETHEUS
3: BOOK OF AGES (3D)
4: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
5: BOOK OF AGES
6: MADAGASCAR 3
7: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLO OF KIYOME

ABREEZA
1: BOOK OF AGES
2: PROMETHEUS
3: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYDAE
4: MADAGASCAR 3/SNOW WHITE
MAJOR POINT
1: BOOK OF AGES
2: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYDAE
3: MADAGASCAR 3 (3D)/SNOW WHITE (3D)
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Celebs' great moments...

From page G1

Rachel Alejandro

My happiest times with my dad were when we performed our awesome retro dance medleys at our concerts. We had so much fun doing it and it always brought the house down—especially the part where my dad did the hip hop.

Suzi Entrata-Abrera

When I was a kid, I got a huge wound on my knee that needed sutures. My dad grabbed a pawn ticket from a tray, ran down to the tiangge, spat here there and pressed the pants on my wound. I really fainted not because of my wound but because of his saliva... ha ha ha!

Iza Calzado

I shared countless memorable moments with my dad but here he passed on...earlier than expected. What stands out at this time is when he is about to be operated on and I was coming from "Eat Bulaga," where I was in the opening dream. He was waiting for me and said he was proud that I did well. He made the nurses watch, too. I miss miss him!

Priscilla Meirelles Estrada

My most memorable moment with my dad, who shaped the person that I am, was when I was 6 and he got a friend of his to play Santa on Christmas Day. I remember him telling me about Santa Claus for the first time that year; he said if I was a good girl, Santa would deliver my gift personally. And that's what happened every Christmas. Up till now, I catch myself living by the principle that, as long as I am a good girl, all my wishes will come true. I thank my dad for instilling that in me.

IZA CALZADO

LUCY Torres-Gomez

JASMINE Curtis-Smith

* * *

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Academy's one-time auditions hunt now at the Senate Amoranto Coliseum. Lights, camera, chance!

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'Special Forces' director was here

By Rayzel Sun Diego Jr.

FRENCH documentarian Stéphane Rybojad packed his action in the latest in his feature films about the dark-haired Basque Rich "Special Forces," currently screening exclusively in SM Cinemas.

Rybojad, who has made docus on the war in Afghanistan, doesn't shy away from gruelling shoots. For "Special Forces," he took his cast to countries that experience extreme weather fluctuations. "The shoot was a big challenge," he told the local media in an exclusive interview when he was in Manila recently. "We shot in three continents—Africa, Asia and Europe."

STEPHANE Rybojad

Scorching, freezing

In Africa, they set up camp in Djibouti and ventured it out to the scorching desert. In Asia, they endured the freezing cold in Tajikistan, near the 10 mahogany. "We shot in plus 50 degrees and in minus 20 degrees," Rybojad recalled.

The cast stayed cooperative and supportive. "They remained committed to the project," he said. He singled out low-time Oscar nominee Djimon Hounsou. "He's an extraordinary actor. It's an honor to direct an actor who has worked with the world's best filmmakers like Steven Spielberg and Ridley Scott." He said Hounsou embodied his role as a resilient military leader who also has to struggle against discrimination.

He had nothing but praises for Diane Kruger, too. "She's a tough girl, not a diva at all. She worked hard and was very efficient in her role (as a French journalist kidnapped by the Taliban)."

Rybojad, who has made over 100 docus, shorts and commercials throughout his 52 year-career, explained that, in his debut movie, he endeavored to make a strong statement against the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamic political party that ruled Afghanistan with an iron fist from 1996 to 2001.

"I traveled to Afghanistan eight times as a journalist," he recounted. "My movie was inspired by those experiences."

He disclosed he flies to the women of Afghanistan. "When the Taliban were in power, young girls were barred from going to school. Women were not allowed to work. The head scarf was suppressed. The Taliban should not be allowed to rule that country again."

Controversial

His film reportedly proved "controversial" in France, where peace activists were against French involvement in the Afghanistan-Iraq conflict. He pointed out that 4,000 French soldiers were sent off to war in Afghanistan.

"Many lost their lives. It was a sensitive issue. The military and the media were being judged by the public. But they were just serving the people of France. Soldiers and journalists are not politicians. They went to Afghanistan to do their jobs." (French forces will pull out of Afghanistan next month.)

He wanted to show their heroism. "In the end, my film is about human courage."

DJIMON Hounsou and Diane Kruger in "Special Forces"

Educ Choke Bond-Formoso

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Homesick scholar finds parallels between food and studies / H4

Eureka! in Germany No speed limit / H4

Do-good, feel-good day for global bank employees

By Stephen Norries A. Padilla

HUNDREDS of Citibank Philippines employees stayed away from their companies for one day and wielded mops, brooms and paintbrushes to get the Tanza National High School (TNHS) in Navotas City ready for another school year.

The 250 or so employees ignored the early morning rain that ensued Sunday of the week leading to the school to participate in their 7th Global Community Day (GCD).

The annual event gives Citi employees, alumni, family and friends the opportunity to come together and serve local communities.

This year's activity was even more significant because Citibank celebrated last Saturday its 200th anniversary, prompting an earlier GCD than its usual schedule in October.

"Volunteerism has always been a strong value among Citi employees, and this year marking our various communities is made even more meaningful as we commemorate Citi's legacy in the local communities," said

CITIBANK country officer for the Philippines Sonjie Votes does his part in Navotas.

Citibank country officer Sonjie Votes.

Citibank chief executive officer Vikram Pandit said, "There is no better way to celebrate our 200th anniversary than by honoring our history, embracing the future and working together to strengthen the communities where we live and work."

For the GCD, Citibank employees, wearing their volunteer shirts, worked all day on and off the school campus.

Solos people, teams leaders and managers worked side by side to give the TNHS two-story building a general cleaning. While some repainted

CITI DAY is all it takes to get a school like the Tanza National High School in Navotas City looking good again, thanks to the repainting, cleaning and repairing done by Citibank's employees.

outside the wooden chairs, others swept and mopped classroom floors. One group was assigned to put plastic covers on windowsills.

Although the job was physically demanding and the weather was unpredictable, the volunteers were all smiles and in good spirits, leaving each other as they went about their tasks.

"I did not expect the size of the rehabilitation project to be this far," said Elisa Magbanua, Citibank sales service officer. "But it's all worth it since I know that I was doing my part to help other people."

GO GOOD P2

100-year-old DLSU looks ahead to the next century

By Stephen Norries A. Padilla

THE DE LA Salle University (DLSU) capped its centennial celebration with the blessing and launch of two modern buildings that would be the springboard for the institution's educational initiatives in the next century.

Taking their cue from the "leap of faith" of the original nine Canadian brothers who founded the school 100 years ago in Central Luzon Street in Manila, the Christian brothers continue the legacy with the construction of the Henry Sy Sr. Centennial Hall (HSSCH) at the Taft campus and the Science and Technology Complex (STC) at the Leandro V. Locsin campus in Laguna.

"Once we shared Lasallian values of faith, service and communion, I am confident that the DLSU community will build on what has been started in the past," said Br. Narciso Ignacio Jr., FSC, DLSU centennial president and chancellor.

The HSSCH, named in honor of the Philippine retail magnate, is the first major building under DLSU's Centennial Renewal Plan, a long-term development program to rationalize the whole university's campus setup and respond to the need for more space for research and instruction.

The Sy family, headed by SM Investments Corp. executive vice president Hans Sy, and the Christian brothers led the blessing of the new building, which was officiated by the Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto.

With the completion of the HSSCH, 3.9 hectares of floor space will be added to the existing 5.6 hectares of the DLSU Taft campus.

The imposing structure on Taft Avenue was designed by the renowned architectural firm Locsin and Associates, Architects. The building's theme is inspired by a grove of trees that forms a home.

It is likened to a "habitable tree," a concept that seeks to empower DLSU constituents and growing role in Philippine education, as well as the institution's embrace of environmental responsibility and resource saving.

The HSSCH is a 14-story eco-friendly building, with a roof deck. It will house several academic service units, study areas, learning spaces and selected offices. It will also be the first academic structure that will be evaluated by the Building For Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence (Beedy).

The building will have the Learning Commons—a central hub that will serve as the intellectual resource for studying in the university. More than a repository of books and reference materials, the Learning Commons is envisioned to be a place of connection where the academic community members can relax, commune and hold official university activities.

The hall houses a convention linked to other buildings and enhances security by centralizing certain areas where students, faculty, administrators and even the public have access.

Ergina said the HSSCH would "not only improve learning but also transform an environment that would specifically cater to the needs of 21st century learners, who can active participants in their own learning."

Ergina emphasized that these learners now prefer panel discussions, critical thinking, collaborative learning and knowledge creation.

The DLSU-STC, on the other hand, is a 56-hectare sprawling campus adjacent to the Laguna Technopark. The new campus will include academic buildings, research centers, modern dormitory facilities and staff housing. It will seek to establish a strong collaboration with neighboring industries, as well as regional research centers.

Aiming to become the leading research center in Asia and the Asia Pacific region, the DLSU-STC will try to have a high concentration of top students and outstanding faculty on its roster.

"Our upcoming or faculty development in the next five years should result in a harvest of young gifted scholars, who will produce research that are transformative and relevant," Ergina said.

"This will support our community of scholars in their

BRAIN P2

THE SCIENCE and Technology Complex on the DLSU Laguna campus

HANDS Sy at the blessing on the DLSU Taft campus of the new Centennial Hall (left) named after his dad, Mayor Henry Sy Sr.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Cop Editor Chayce Medina

UST faculty researchers to receive NAST awards

THE NATIONAL Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) named three faculty researchers from the University of Santo Tomas as recipients of the 2012 NAST Awards.

Awardees are Dr. Bernard John V. Tongol, 2012 Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) in the field of Applied Chemistry; Dr. Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz, 2012 Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) in the field of Mycology; and Dr. Mario A. Tan, 2012 NAST Talent Search for Young Scientists in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

All three belong to the UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences (URSAS) and the UST College of Science, recognized by the College of Higher Education as a Center of Excellence in Chemistry and Biology and granted level IV accredited status by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) under the Federation of Accrediting Agencies in the Philippines (FAAP).

Aside from the cash prize and plaque of recognition, the awardees shall each receive a research grant from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The awarding ceremonies will be held July 12 at the Manila Hotel.

UC partners with Smart to strengthen learning among Baguio schoolchildren

LEADING wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) formalized its partnership with University of the Cordilleras (UC) to continue the implementation of CommuniTech, the telco's community-based education initiative, in Baguio City.

CommuniTech aims to improve learning among the lowest performing public elementary school students through the active participation of parents and the community in mentoring their children, in partnership with UC. Smart has been reaching 48 Baguio kids from Springhills Elementary School (SES) since October 2011.

In ceremonies held at UC campus in Baguio City, officials from Smart, UC, Department of Education, Baguio City Schools Division and ABS-Burnis Teachers Association disclosed how the program has been helping the Baguio kids in its short span of implementation.

CommuniTech uses customized learning modules developed by Isfel Arañas, Inc. (ISAI) a Montessori, mind-based group that has successfully implemented the community mentoring model for the past three years. The learning technology utilizes programs such as Ground Zero (subject education), Bukkit Aklat (book discovery and appreciation of local literature) and ACMatch (math appreciation).

In addition, once a week, run-hour study sessions are facilitated by education majors of UC every Saturday for the entire school year in a customized CommuniTech classroom that encourages interaction among the children. At the end of every class is a feeding program assisted by the student's parents, who take turns every week in preparing food for the beneficiaries.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

FEU, Mayor Lim highlight community partnership

FAR EASTERN University's Office of Community Extension Services (OCES) director Jiki Dizon (left) met with Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (right) last June 1 to thank him for his continuous support of the university's various community extension projects. Dizon said past FEU has been partnering with Manila City Hall for community service activities that help raise greater social awareness among the students, faculty members and officers. Among the partnership's most successful initiatives in recent years are the Project Green Sea in Manila Bay, Project Clean and Green at Tondo and Project Kasa Mo, Linis Ko in Manila's University Belt area, which each gathered thousands of participants. Presently, FEU's OCES, with the assistance of the Manila City Hall, is planning a possible intervention activity in the Roman Shipping and Engineering Company (Resco) compound, a depressed area in Tondo, Manila. Joining Mayor Lim and Dizon during the meeting were Lea M. delos Reyes, Manila City Hall executive division officer-in-charge and Elvin Lauriano, operations division assistant.

Local and Asian groups visit UMak

UNIVERSITY of Makati's (UMak) Extension Services Office (ESO) in coordination with International Relation Department and Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs, welcomed high school students from Seoul, South Korea including Jeonbuk Yonsin, senior citizens' representatives from Laboratory Laguna, Tagaytay City in Cagayan, and the city of Laguna, administrator and faculties of Batangas Medical College and Iloilo City Community College, and graduate school students from Eastern Visayas State University. Their visit to UMak included courtesy calls on university president Prof. Tomas B. Lopez Jr., executive vice president Dr. Lolita I. Chan, and a tour to the different university facilities including the new Health and Physical Sciences Building and interactive with members of UMak community.

UM gets first institutional ISO in Mindanao

THE UNIVERSITY of Mindanao (UM) received its ISO 9001:2008 certificate from Societe Generale De Surveillance (SGS) Philippines last June 13 in its auditorium in Matina Campus, Davao City. With this distinction, UM became the first educational institution in Mindanao to be awarded the ISO certification due to its well-maintained quality management system. Dr. Guillermo P. Torres Jr., UM president and board chair, expressed his gratitude in receiving the certificate. "We are grateful and deeply honored that the University of Mindanao has received finally the ISO 9001:2008 certificate for quality management system," he said. Being ISO-certified will benefit the students and make the university at par with international educational institutions.

CLSU recognized as among PH's best universities

THE CENTRAL Luzon State University received recognition as one of the best higher education institutions in the country based on the Center of Excellence (COE) and Center of Development (COD) certificates received from the Commission on Higher Education. The COE list of CHED's post 2009 top-of-the- 4, 2010) also shows that CLSU has the most number of programs recognized as Center of Excellence in Region III. There are 249 higher education institutions recognized this year by the CHED with programs recognized by CHED with COEs and CODs, which bested 189 schools on April 12, 2012. In a Center of Excellence or Development status, namely Agriculture, Fisheries, Veterinary Medicine, Agricultural Engineering, and Teachers Education. Its Biology and Chemistry programs are recognized as Center of Development.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

UE dean Valdez joins Malaysian fact-finding mission

UE COLLEGE of Law dean Amado D. Valdez recently joined an international observer group to conduct a fact-finding mission on the forthcoming Malaysian parliamentary election, sparse next month. The purpose of the fact-finding mission was to gather information on the country's electoral processes and institutions related to the elections and the overall electoral environment, and to help governments and institutions make better decisions in the long-term interest of Malaysia. The members of the group were invited in their individual capacities and as such, their views expressed would be their own and not of their government or institution. Other members of the group included Malaysian Jawad Mohd Yusof, Dr. Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Dr. Dieter Fernandes and Sen. Bilal Ramadhan, both from Commonwealth of Australia; Juliane Schroeder from the Federal Republic of Germany, and Dr. Mohamad Basir Saleeng Saroinsong from the Republic of Indonesia. The group submitted its election-authorities-and-party report with recommendations to a press conference held recently at the Malaysian Parliament.

Claret to conduct TESOL certification course

CLARET School of Quezon City, in association with TESOL Asia Ltd., Philippines, will conduct a 120-hour certification course on July 14 to 28. The five full-weekend session (Saturday and Sunday) course is offered mainly to teachers and graduates or graduating (Journalism majors). However, it is also open to non-teachers who intend to pursue a career in English as a Second Language (ESL) teaching as a career. Two sessions of the teaching course will be conducted by Dr. Paul Bidwell-son (TESOL Asia Ltd. CEO, Trinity Teacher Training Centre, Cambridge, UK) and senior editor of the Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary, Jonathan Lee Lass. For more details or inquiries on special discounts for groups of 5 persons, contact Ms. Edie Santos (jpsantos_mail@yahoo.com) or the CSQC MPIC office (921-6567 loc. 211).

CCP team shines at MAFBEX 2012

U.I. CP the participants folded by Central College of the Philippines in the 6th MAFBEX Young Entrepreneurs Expo (YEE) held from June 11 to 12 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City advanced past the qualifying round for an eight-out-of-eight (100 percent) success rate proving record-breaking proper. The CCP team was composed of the following students participating in the respective events: Paola Lira Cordero – Ronald Cadiz (team leader); Victor Andrew del Mundo and Krystal Lalic (F&B Service); Maribel Basilan – Rona Gay Juan; Dean Imelda Lilian Bautista, Fatima Tesoro, and Dominick Tampoang, Jr. (Food Preparation); Anna Pia Fabian (team leader); Jaclynne Isaac and Ma. Salome Bontuyan – Rosela May Bueno Crescent – Anthony Pontaganan (team leader); Christian Gervais, and Jolina Bonito; Cooking Demo – Kenny Grace Mendoza; Seafood Cookery – Lester Sandalo (team leader), Kevin Dalandan, and Madilyn Ann Padilla; and Table Set Up – Don Justinian Abainnasser), Rona Mendo, Julie Pearl Perez, Rhea Rondaja, and Ramon Pandong. Contact CCP Admissions Office at 710-03 00 loc. 126 or 711-0809 or e-mail info@ccp.edu.ph.

SPU Manila community gears up for new academic year

ST. PAUL University Manila (St. Paul University System) held its pre-opening activities on May 28 to 31 in the university's Hotel and Restaurant Management Training Center (HRMTC) with the theme "Empowered by the Spirit: Leaders in Service, Servants in Leadership, and Loving Service." The activity was led by university president Sr. Lilia Tolentino Salamanca, SPC, and was participated in by top and middle management members, academic and academic non-teaching staff, and non-academic personnel. Among the speakers were lawyer Josephus B. Jimenez, Labor Attaché II of the Department of Labor and Employment, who discussed "Restructure Jurisprudence," and Manila Archdiocesan Parochial School Teachers Association (MAPSTA) president Rosalinda Bandoc, president of Manila Archdiocesan Parochial Schools Association (MAPSA), who talked about "Understanding and Internalizing the Vision-Mission of SPU Manila." The input of the two speakers provided guidelines for the directions and programs of the different services of SPU Manila for the academic year (SY) 2012-2013.

TIP strengthens environment and sanitary engineering program

IN AN effort to ensure that the program is responsive and relevant to the needs of the industry, technological institute of the Philippines recently held an academic advisory board meeting with constituents of the Environmental and Sanitary Engineering (ESE) program that included alumni, the accredited professional organization in the country, and representatives from industry. Held in its Quezon City campus, TIP president Dr. Elizabeth Quirino-Labao explained that only certified faculty of its programs and laboratories can be audited such as TIP be released to the industry for which it produces its graduates.

PDIC savings road show kicks off at LPU Batangas

PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp.'s campaign for responsible and wise saving started its savings road show in 3 years of the Philippines University–Batangas (LPU-B) aimed at educating students on the importance of saving. The event was made possible by the cooperative efforts of various organizations such as Bankers Seminar Inc Pilipinas (BSP), Bankers' Association of the Philippines (BAP), Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB) and Rural Bankers' Association of the Philippines (RBAP). Dr. Esmeralda R. Landes, LPU-B's executive vice president, highlighted in her opening remarks with the university's commitment in shaping the values and character of the youth. Among the speakers who graced the occasion were Dr. Antonio Cowal B. Ybanez, PDIC corporate executive officer I; Nayanne S. Tinoco-Herrmann, a bank officer from the Financial Consumer Affairs Group of BSP; Antonio O. Palad, VP for Luzon of the Rural Bankers' Association of the Philippines; and Corazon M. Gonzales from the Chamber of Thrift Banks.

Member Schools

Xavier School Nuvali inauguration

XAVIER School will inaugurate on June 22 a new campus in Nuvali, Santa Rosa, Laguna.

School officials and members of the board of trustees, led by Ateneo de Cebu SJ school president, will unveil commemorative plaques recognizing the founding benefactors of the new campus.

Expected to attend are representatives of Ayala Properties Inc., a joint venture of Ayala Land and the John Tu Ko Cho Multi-Purpose Hall, and the 3000-seat Church of St. Francis Xavier.

A Mass of the Holy Spirit will follow the ribbon-cutting to be celebrated by Jose Palde City Bishop Bro. Leo M. Drona and concelebrated by members of the Society of Jesus, led by Father Provincial Jose Cecilio Magadia, SJ. A dinner program will provide the lunch reception.

Xavier School Nuvali has the same curriculum as the main campus—a college preparatory program with Chinese language as a core subject. But it will offer a flexible enskeduling program, accepting both boys and girls who will study together for some subjects and grade levels and separately in others.

The school also aims to give financial assistance, through its Gawad sa Kid Program, to 20 percent of the student population.

The school's administrators and faculty, led by school principal Sr Irene Chen, former academic principal of grade school, all came from Xavier School in San Juan City.

In its first year, Xavier School Nuvali offers classes from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Another level will be added every year thereafter.

The new school will cater to the growing number of Filipino-Filipino communities in cities and municipalities in and around Nuvali.

THE CAMPUS of the new Xavier School Nuvali in Santa Rosa, Laguna

Ateneo physics professor is Outstanding Young Scientist

DR. GEMMA Teresa T. Narisma, associate professor of Ateneo de Manila University's physics department, is the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) Award in atmospheric science.

Recipients of the OYS are chosen by the National Academy of Science and Technology.

Narisma obtained her doctoral degree in atmospheric science from Macquarie University in Australia. She was affiliated with the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, until 2008, doing research on climate change and land cover change-climate interactions.

She returned in November 2008 to resume teaching at Ateneo.

She has since been undertaking projects with the Manila Observatory and has published several scientific articles in 10 journals.

GEMMA Teresa T. Narisma

The best of Germany

Front page H1

praying for the eternal repose of souls and for world harmony.

At the historic Red Berlin, the Soviet War Memorial to the fallen of World War II was massive yet poignant. We toured the parts of the infamous Wall, built overnight in the heart of the city, earning 138 families and friends for a generation. We lingered at parts of the Wall that remained, now decorated with murals of peace and reunification.

At Checkpoint Charlie, United States citizens used to enter and exit East Germany underguard. Now the site is a museum, featuring newsreels of the Cold War and displays of ingenious escape contraptions, such as false luggage boxes used as secret car trunks.

Sausages and dogs

My husband and my son raved about frankfurters and wieners, with neither artificial preservatives nor lackluster fillings like those in other parts. In bustling and modern it most of the world, German law requires sausages to have generous amounts of solid meat.

I loved the cyclamen, flashy and light, unlike the heavy stately ones here. Pots may have set the standard for pansies, but the spurs/pansies color to the Black Forest can rival that to the most sappy hydrangea in Baguio.

The most surprising thing about Germany, though, is the national love for dogs. In Wiesbaden, 30 minutes outside Frankfurt, dogs of every size and stripe are everywhere. But are seldom heard from barking—the dogs are disciplined in their manners.

Dogs (all on leashes) were patiently beside the subway exit, reminded of the rules; they sat the escalator in swanky malls, way quietly while their masters looked at prices in cafés and could smartly through airports and obligingly enter their cages for travel.

Ultimately, the mark of a civilized people may be in how we treat animals. It is about time that public places in our country start welcoming dogs, too.

E-mail the author at bliss.bautista@yahoo.com.

DepEd gets book donations for food, nutrition classes

ALKEMBUYO Philippines Corp. (APC) has donated copies of the coffee table book "Pinoy Umami: The Heart of Philippine Cuisine" to the Department of Education (DepEd).

The donation is in line with the company's commitment to pass on food, cooking and nutrition information to students.

The book focuses on umami, the fifth basic taste, and its presence in various Filipino cuisine and dishes. It comes with a collection of 110 recipes.

A total of 2,500 copies of the book are currently being given to public and private high schools offering technology and livelihood education under the core curriculum of foods and food service.

Teacher-trainers in foods and food service said the books would be helpful in enriching the understanding and experience of high school students as they proceed with their interest in food preparation.

Ajinomoto has been conducting educational programs on food and nutrition for colleges and universities since 2006 through the Umami Campus Tour and the Umami Culinary Challenge.

APC sales, marketing and public relations director Takashi Sakurai said Ajinomoto was very happy to partner with DepEd, through the Bureau of Secondary Education, in helping high school students broaden their knowledge of cooking and nutrition practices and trends.

He said the books would be helpful in creating greater understanding among students, which they could use if they decide to set up their own food businesses or pursue courses related to food, health or nutrition.

Umami is the fifth basic taste, after sweet, sour, bitter and salty. Among the sources of umami is the amino acid glutamate that is found naturally in foods like meat, fish, vegetables and dairy products.

"Pinoy Umami: The Heart of Philippine Cuisine" is the first book of its kind that illustrates the diversity and delicateness of Philippine cuisine. It received the Gourmand Award, the highest recognition given to public relations cooks at the 4th Asia Awards.

TAKASHI Sakurai hands a copy of "Pinoy Umami" to Dr. Lolita M. Andrada, director, Department of Education's Bureau of Secondary Education (DepEd BSE). Also in photo are Dr. Roderick A. Tadeo, education program specialist, DepEd BSE, and Michael Victorio, Ajinomoto Philippines Corp. category manager for basic seasoning.

Seminars for wedding suppliers

THE PHILIPPINE Wedding Summit (PWEDS12), slated on June 23-24 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, aims to promote professionalism among those in the business of providing products and services for weddings.

Wedding suppliers are invited to join career enhancement seminars to be held for the duration of the PWEDS12.

Rita Siet of Rita Siet Event Planners will talk on "Top 10 Do's and Don'ts When Dealing with Clients" and "How Do We Handle Clients? What about Difficult Brides and Grooms or Their Families?" She will share ideas and tips on successfully dealing with clients.

Frank Cheng of Fancy Bit will talk on "Designing World-class Wedding Cakes for Today's Modern Couples."

The multi-awarded Cheng will share her experiences creating cakes for elegant cocktails such as the Fernando Udel Kithan Zilvestre, Ronnie Romulo Blanket Soledad, and Ryan Agnerich-Judy Ann Santos weddings.

"Maximizing Print Success as a Wedding Professional" will be the topic of Dodjie B. Silfavo of the husband-and-wife team behind Themes & Motifs. He will share techniques on how to use measurement tools to grow a wedding business.

Fanny Pascual's masterful creations have graced the country's premier wedding magazines and many great weddings. He will discuss the latest event styling trends in "Evolution of Event Styling in the Philippines: A Decade of Honey Flavored."

Admission is free to registered applicants but registrants must deposit a P200 bond to the Themes & Motifs bank account, which is refundable at the seminar.

To register, download the registration form from the Themes & Motifs website, www.themesnmotifs.com (The Wedding Ideas Portal Philippines), and e-mail accomplished documents to info@themesnmotifs.com, or fax to 8249784. Call 5112000 or telefax 8139784.

The event is open to all Philippine wedding entrepreneurs, including nonexhibitors of Themes & Motifs.

Scholarships to New Zealand

ELIGIBLE Filipinos can pursue undergraduate degree/advanced-related degrees under the New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDAS) program.

Funded by the New Zealand government through the New Zealand Aid Program, the NZAS grants postgraduate scholarships in agriculture, tourism, government, public sector management, trade development, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and renewable energy.

Applications are ongoing and will close on Aug. 31.

Interested applicants may contact Faye Lim at lim@thewall.com.ph or telephone no. 8825482.

SMILE volunteers clean the blackboards and walls of a classroom in San Antonio Elementary School.

Brigada Eskwela gets 'powerful' support

THE DEPED Elementary School in Barangay Tingloy, Ingore, Benguet, and San Antonio Elementary School in Barangay San Antonio, Ramon, Isabela, were beneficiaries of the Brigada Eskwela activities of SN Mendez Disney (SNMD) Benguet and SNAP Magat, respectively.

About 440 students benefited from the school makeovers, some 146 in Ilinga and about 300 in San Antonio.

This is the third year SNAP is supporting the Department of Education's annual Brigada Eskwela project to prepare schools for a new school year by asking public and private sector volunteers to do minor repairs, cleanups and maintenance.

For SNMD, the annual activity is an employee engagement program.

Volunteers from SNAP said its contractor companies, local governments and host communities participated this year in such activities as repainting of classroom walls, fixing and painting of roofs and painting of bookshelves and school benches.

SNAP-Benguet and SNAP-Magat also provided paint and cleaning materials.

A WALL of Ilinga Elementary School is repainted.

SNAP-Benguet owns the 105-megawatt Ambuklao and 100-MW Binga hydropower facilities in Bokod and Itogon, Benguet; SNAP-Magat owns the 360-MW Magat hydroelectric power plant straddling the towns of Ramon, Isabela, and Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. SNAP-Benguet and SNAP-Magat are both joint venture companies of SN Power of Norway and Aboitiz Power.

Do-good ...

Front page H1

Apart from doing actual work, GE Bank also donated 30 personal computers to the school's computer laboratory to replace obsolete units that numbered could no longer use. The bank also donated 40 PCs to the local government for distribution to other public schools.

GDC is endorsed in 81 countries and participated in by around 100,000 Citibank employees. The volunteers have committed themselves to work in 1,300 service projects that will benefit local communities. The projects include building homes, spending time with street children, hosting sports activities, teaching kids, building classrooms, planting trees and cleaning beaches among others.

In the Philippines, the activities started in May with more than 4,000 Citibank volunteers nationwide participating. Half of the volunteers have been working to finish 200 homes right in Tanza in partnership with Habitat for Humanity that aims to build at least 1800 houses by December.

The project aims to provide decent housing and better communities for deserving families displaced last year by Typhoon "Pedring." Volunteers have also been planting trees in the selected sites, organizing public school classrooms and engaging children in fun activities while teaching them about proper hygiene, nutrition, and arts and crafts.

VOLUNTEERS check desks to see which ones need to be repaired.

DLSU ...

Front page H1

pursuit of ... research projects, which shall contribute to the fulfillment of our vision-mission to be a learner-centered research university for the ... next century," he added.

The surrounding areas of DLSU-STC is bustling with commercial and leisure activities. This urban/suburban mix is expected to provide the momentum and incentive for the engagement-driven complex.

As part of its outstanding learning, DLSU also launched its newly upgraded website, www.dlsu.edu.ph. A cultural show, "Culture Works," was presented which showcased indigenous artists from all 16 Lasallian schools. It was followed by the concert "Lasallian Voices," which celebrated DLSU's goals toward sustained development. A Dioscoro display ended the celebration.

CAMPUS KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

How studying and cooking nourish me

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Contributor

HOME COOKING The author's "adobo" (left above), garlic pork sisig, "lumpiang shanghai," ready-spring rolls, and "tinola" pigeg, ginger-based chicken soup

COLUMBIA, Missouri—I love food. It nourishes me. It makes me happy.

So when I got a Fulbright scholarship to study in the United States almost two years ago, I just had to check if Columbia had a Filipino restaurant.

It didn't. This city, which is really low in the summer and freezing in the winter, is small, with only about 110,000 people.

Of course, the lack of a Filipino restaurant was not going to make me drop the idea of coming here.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program got me into the hottest journalism school in the world (I am being totally biased here). The Missouri School of Journalism not only the world's oldest, it also has the most awarded and most people I have ever met (biased again).

So pumped and ready to study and still be able to enjoy the Filipino food that I love so much, I decided to learn how to cook my favorite dishes.

I had to pack for the whole year and so I made it more plausible. I stuffed sapsap skewers to prepare delicious tempting *tusuhgbic*.

Although there is an Filipino restaurant, Columbia has a small Filipino store and a few Asian stores where I buy my Filipino soy sauce, vinegar and lumpia wrappers.

And so it is that my journey toward my doctorate degree parallels my culinary adventures.

I have learned that pork adobo tastes best with some pork fat. But the pork chops sold in stores here don't have fat. No skin, either.

Meat without the fat

Studying here is like pork chops without fat. My program is awesome. My professors are very helpful, encouraging and smart. I get to work on some projects with them, in the process learning from them. I take teach classes. So, yes, I get the most.

But there is only one stuff. Class is unbearably boring and I do not have a car. Bicycles running since every 40 minutes—and never on Sundays or holidays—there are very few places where I can go. To fight boredom, I do more work and become more productive.

So, although life is not as good as I would want it to be, without the "fat," it is definitely much healthier.

It is difficult to find makeup, get home fixes or I am optimal in my vitals. Also in my mind, wishes. Sometimes it is my going, too. Of course, the cure is not the same.

Studying away from my own. But came to like it both without realizing it. It is a time that helps to overcome missing my family and friends back home. I was not able to celebrate with my family when my brother still. Sadly became an engineer. I have missed several weddings.

It is always tough to find a good time or deeper with my parents and siblings, and with my best friend (there is a 13-hour difference between the United States and the Philippines is selfie. 14 hours when daylight saving time ends in November).

So I settle for "optimal." I have many new friends. They are adorable. They keep me sane and grounded. I write a lot of research papers with them. I host and blog me.

PROJECT Business & Investment BIG Guide

Going nuts over Peanut World

By Joel V. Mejos

POPULAR radio DJ Nicolmejos with suitors in Cantimur Tondominium, Pasay City, and Star City

WITH JJ helping mind the last casualties earlier of her in-laws during the Christmas season in the '90s, Josephine Co Sioc can't refrain from buying peanuts from a small store located just in front. Though the peanut store sold only four varieties, she noticed that business was brisk.

Realizing the seasonal essence of her in-laws' business, she and husband Mariano thought of putting up a business which would sell something all year round. And the couple, being peanut lovers too, decided to sold peanuts in their line up, and not just four varieties.

GOING C

PLDT smeNation
Success Made Easy

Giving Women's Fitness A Boost

PLDT SME Nation links up G-Stop to improve store monitoring and overall business

Can't be at your shop all the time? With PLDT SME Nation's CheckOut and Watcher services, it won't be a problem. "G-Stop is a multi-merchandise and multi-brand lifestyle store exclusively for women who are into sports, want to stay fit, or just advocate wellness," explains owner Bobby Go. "Because I have multiple locations, I need to be 'virtually' present in all branches."

Inventory Security

The store boasts of a wide array of fitness and wellness items. Store sports equipment, chic workout outfits, therapeutic tools, nutritious delicacy and even home fitness items. With a huge amount of stock that G-Stop needs to manage, it became critical to have a reliable inventory system that they could count on. "I was looking for practical and convenient technological solutions," says Go. "Fortunately, I was able to find them with the help of PLDT SME Nation."

• **PLDT CheckOut.** "It works because I can monitor each SKU in the store and see which items I need to re-order when stocks are running low," says Go. "Reports are by the hour and by item, so sales summaries are easily created."

• **PLDT Watcher.** This multi-camera system helps business owners prevent theft by being able to monitor all movement from the head office through the Internet or mobile phone.

Going With The Techie Flow

While Go admits that shifting from a manual system took some getting used to, going with PLDT SME Nation's CheckOut and Watcher has been a huge help, since automating sales monitoring data gives him more time to focus on priority concerns. "Once you get used to it, it becomes second nature," he explains. "Running the business has become more efficient and convenient. Since sales data is available in real time, I can easily capitalize on what's hot in the market store by checking on sales and trends quickly wherever I am."

G-Stop owner Bobby Go is always on-the-go, but keeps in touch with his business with PLDT's CheckOut and Watcher services.

G-Stop offers a wide array of fitness gear made specifically for women—your one-stop shop for an active lifestyle.

PLDT Watcher gives a multi-view of your stores, with its pan and tilt feature.

PLDT CheckOut enables you to check sales and inventory data in real time, wherever you may be.

REAL ENTREPRENEURS NEED REAL SOLUTIONS.
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Maybank

Pinoy Pizza makes a comeback

3M SUPREME continues to be the favorite among the expanded set of pizza flavors.

PIZZA and pasta are two Italian food favorites that have been integrated into the Filipino table fare. But unlike our Mediterranean friends, we like our pizza and pasta sweet and with a hint of spice.

As the first consumer-inclined Filipino pizza that pioneered pizza kiosks in the country, 3M Pizza Pie is a well-loved tradition and an unforgettable pizza brand for many as it was part of their youth and family tradition. We all practically grew up or grew old with it.

3M Pizza has been well known for its tasty and classic pizza with a crispy thin crust that is smothered with sweet, home-style tomato sauce. For over 40 years now, this pizza has made millions of Filipino pizza lovers happy and satisfied. "We all practically grew up or grew old with it," said the executive from one of the first convenient Pizza Pie kiosks: Pizza Cosy.

3M Pizza Pie was founded by Merle B. Hamsher in 1969 together with her three sisters. A regular pizza lover in New York, she thought of reinventing her pizza by making a unique sauce that caters to the Filipino palate. To make her "pizza pie" more accessible, she put up a small kiosk outside the family's toy shop business at Ateneo Avenue in Quezon City. It became an instant hit since it was the first time Filipinos ever tasted pizza.

Soon after, her other sisters Minerva B. Miller, Milagros B. Villar, and Inez Leandro P. Pascual joined the company. In 1996, the company was reincorporated under the name Supreme's Food Corp. In 2006, 37 years after the four sisters established the business, the torch had been passed on to the young and dynamic entrepreneurs.

3M Pizza, now under new management, has returned to the market with aggressive plans to re-establish itself as the leading quick serve pizza, pasta and snacks in the country by reinventing the brand and upgrading its image.

The new owners have streamlined the operations and implemented a semi-automated production process. They also established an R&D team composed of culinary chefs and market analysts who helped the company develop new products and a new unique Pinoy pizza line.

With a name that is as strong as ever, a revamped brand logo and store look, better and more exciting pizza and pasta offerings, and aggressive marketing efforts, 3M Pizza is making the business to be the next level—from rhising.

With the help of a franchising consultant, the company is offering an exciting food business prospect to food-drug entrepreneurs that is easy to operate and learn yet profitable to own.

The franchise opportunities was formally launched in the 2007 Philippine International Franchise Expo. Since then, the company has already opened more than 40 franchised outlets throughout Metro Manila and Luzon. Former dealerships have also undergone conversion to formal franchises after realizing the benefits of the strong franchise system.

Stronger product line

For a long time since 1969, 3M Pizza had always been characterized by its pizza's unique sweet and slightly spicy sauce that caters to the Filipino taste and with a thin crispy crust topped by ham and cheddar cheese.

Today though, it has expanded to seven more flavors—top-billed by bona-ardor Hawaiian-Delight with pineapple and ham, garlic and cheese, Pepperoni Feast, Mushroomania, Gardener's Delight, Beefy Slice Sauce, and 3M Pizza Supreme.

All these toppings are offered in small (7-inch diameter), medium (10-inches) and mega (13-inches) sizes. In addition, the company now also offers pastas, spaghetti, 3M Pizza Roll and Quesadilla.

The company also plans to offer new toppings inspired by Filipino dishes, one of which is the spicy Bicol Express. The pasta line will also be expanded to include a new spaghetti sauce with bonding, as well as baked ziti, and "palabok."

A promo-type big store is also in the works that will offer meal packages that include crispy and spicy fried chicken, super-calamansi drink and sweet-sweet dessert pizza concoction.

3M Pizza Pie currently runs over 40 company-owned outlets and franchises nationwide (two Japan), to so far in Cagayan, and Ilocos, Carandaman. For details and inquiries about franchise packages, visit their website: www.3mpizzapie.com.ph or call 412-6636 or e-mail inquiries@3mpizzapie.com.ph.

Going nuts over Peanut World

Francisco 1

"In in 1998, we put up JM Nuts and Nut Cavalier at the Ever Gotesco Grand Central in Caloocan City," she started. She added that 3M represents the initials of her and her husband's first names.

Soon, their business began to attract a loyal clientele. At the same time, she added, the business satisfied their personal cravings being peanut lovers. They no longer would go and buy from other stores, and they could even mix their offerings to what they preferred most.

With the success of their first outlet, they tried to enter SM supermalls. She recalls that it was not a walk in the park as they had to comply with the strict mall's strict requirements.

"It took us some time before we were finally allowed to put up one at SM Southmall. That was in 2000 when SM was just beginning to allow kiosks and we were lucky to be the first ones to be admitted," shared Sue who is an optometrist by profession.

Their entry at SM gave them the opportunity to change their trade name to Peanut World. They also began to expand and reinvent their product varieties.

"One thing good when you are allowed to enter SM is that you can already put up outlets in all of their malls. Now, every time an SM mall would be opened, we are always invited to put up one. That allows us to expand our business more," she said.

In 2006, after joining a franchise show by the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., they decided to open their business in franchising.

Health benefits

Sue said that peanuts provide so many health benefits that people are not aware of.

"Peanuts are a good source of antioxidants. It can also reduce the risk of stroke as they contain phytosterols called resveratrol that has been determined to improve blood flow to the brain," she said quoting the British Journal of Nutrition and Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry of the American Chemical Society.

The American Peanut Council, she said, has also found out that peanuts help lower the risk of type 2 diabetes, largely because of the high levels of unsaturated fat, magnesium and dietary fiber.

Peanuts also protect against Alzheimer's disease and other age-related cognitive decline because they are rich in niacin that assists in the functioning of the digestive system, skin and the nervous. It also helps in the conversion of food to energy.

"Additional serving of nuts per week helps reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by an average of 8.3 percent, according to the British Journal of Nutrition, people who eat nuts at least once a week are nearly less likely to gain weight than those who almost never consume nuts, reports the Nursing Journal, and a number of studies also show that eating peanuts at least twice a week is associated with a 58 percent lowered risk of colorectal in women and a 27 percent lowered risk in men. Peanuts also help prevent the presence of gall stones as study results that women who eat at least an ounce of nuts each week have a 25-percent lower risk of developing gall stones," she shared.

She also emphasized that "contrary to popular belief peanuts do not cause acne," as quoted in studies by the American Academy of Dermatology.

"Nuts even contain Vitamin B1, Vitamin E and zinc which promote a healthy body and a healthy skin. Vitamin B1 reduces cholesterol and improves blood circulation. Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant that protects cells from free radicals, and zinc boosts the immune system," she said, quoting studies from the Peanut Institute in the United States.

Peanut World offers a wide variety of treats to cater to various customers...from young ones to senior citizens, and the

Salmon adobo paraan is one many reasons are the delicious benefits. Adobo dishes is by garlic lovers; generations peanut is be guilt-free in

OUR Store in Ilocos Mall, General Santos City

CYNTHIA Herrera in Lindanao Mall, Cagayan de Oro City

Top tips for the budding online marketer

Some 4GB offers savvy marketers the opportunity to tell their wares to hefty prices (both business and retail) for small. Even you can easily leverage these free tools to successfully run and reap the benefits of an online marketing campaign.

Here are the key questions and tips to help you plan and execute your online marketing campaign like a pro.

Five key questions to ask yourself

1. **What is the goal of your campaign?** Brands have enough...but specifying what you want your campaign to achieve can really help you narrow down the values and focus of your plan. While you may have a number of marketing goals, focus on the most important one to start. For example, a small shoe store may identify "selling 1,000 pairs of shoes in one month" as their primary goal...or an online games developer may aim to "gain 1,000 unique visitors a week."

2. **What are you trying to market?** Pick out the product or service you want to market. This may be your best-seller or one of your lesser-known products or services. Picking too many products or services could lead to confusion and streaming on the Internet consumers.

3. **Who is your audience?** It is important to identify who your audience is, as this criteria will help refine what actions to take to implement your marketing strategy. Is your product or service best suited for women from 20 to 30? Or are you looking to attract new customers from a specific demographic?

Once you have identified your intended audience, you'll be able to understand their online behavior and shape your marketing plan around reply. For example, if your intended audience search engines to look for information on products and services, then a search marketing campaign may be just what you need to engage with them.

4. **Time is your audience accessing your site?** It's important to know whether your audience is looking for you via desktop devices or using mobile devices. Google's data shows that

BUSINESS

Exclusive luxury at Tower 2 of Splendido Taal in Tagaytay

SPLENDIDO
TAAL TOWERS
RESIDENTIAL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

UNIT OWNERS WILL ENJOY

- 2-YEAR FREE ACCESS TO SPLENDIDO GOLF CLUB
- MEMBERSHIP IN SPLENDIDO COUNTRY CLUB

Splendido Taal, with its breath-taking views of Taal Lake, Bulusan Bay, and virgin forests, is the most prized development in the Tagaytay area. It has luxuriant amenities to be enjoyed amid the natural beauty of its surroundings. It is just 59 kilometers from Metro Manila and is close to the beaches of Nasugbu and Calatagan.

For those seeking a haven of tranquility, afforded by an exclusive lifestyle, it would be wise to explore the possibilities offered by Tower 2 of the Splendido Taal.

Tower 2 is a mid-rise, residential and condotel development, within a 250-hectare gated community nestled along the Tagaytay Ridge.

Residents and unit owners in Splendido Taal Tower 2 will not only enjoy the serenity and beauty of their natural surroundings, but will also have access to various amenities as lifetime members of the Splendido Taal Country Club.

These amenities include fine dining restaurants serving global cuisines, a coffee shop, a bar, a game room, a banquet hall and function rooms.

For the recreational use of residents and guests, there are covered tennis courts, basketball courts and badminton courts, as well as a bowling alley and a gym.

They may also avail of wellness services like jacuzzi, therapeutic hot tubs and females), jacuzzi, dry spa and massage services; and use the adult and kiddie swimming pools. Free Wi-Fi access is available.

Unit owners who are avid golfers also have the privilege of access to the greens and fairways of the Splendido Taal Golf Course, an 18-hole, par-72, championship golf course, designed by no less than golf icon Greg Norman, in conformity with international standards.

As members of the Splendido Taal Golf Course, they will be able to play on any of the 13 country clubs and golf courses of Sta. Lucia Land across the Philippines. They will also enjoy free golf club membership for two years.

Splendido Taal Tower 2 offers world-class amenities and investors several types to choose from for sale and for lease. The rest of the units are available as hotel guests. Unit types include studio apartments, one-bedroom apartments and one-bedroom penthouses.

Splendido Taal Towers is a joint venture of Sta Lucia Land Incorporated and BASA Group of Companies. PA Estate Group of Marketing Companies is the exclusive marketing agent. Inquiries are accepted at telephone numbers (632) 954-4283, (632) 896-3043/(632) 896-9139, (632) 634-2398.

STA. LUCIA LAND INC.

Even starting with micro can grow into something big

PHOTOS FOR Foundation, a social investment banker for microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the Philippines, brings stories of micro-entrepreneurs that it has helped succeed. These are literally rags-to-riches stories, and while the announcements of their hard-earned wealth is still far removed from those of big business, theirs are inspiring others that no matter how humble an inspired entrepreneur's beginnings, it is possible to rise from poverty.

More PinoyME's success stories

DEE
- Initial loan: P3,000
- Annual sales: P768,000

Planting seeds and reaping rewards

"I borrowed more to improve our farm. I bought seeds that my neighbors planted, then I sold the produce."

Annual profit: P480,000

Life started to get better for Samantha Starr of Cebu when she had the means to feed and to business of her own to operate.

In 2000, she thought of selling vegetables at the Carbon market and went to CMSDFI (Cebu Municipal Small Enterprise Development Foundation, Inc.) to borrow P3,000 for capital. She started supplying her neighbors with seeds and fertilizer on her retail plans. As harvests grew, she bought their produce to sell at the Carbon market.

Sales and profits steadily grew. Soon, Samantha completed one loan cycle, she started a new one to expand her production capacity. Eventually, she was able to buy her own land to cultivate. In 2007, she was on her 11th loan cycle, with a loan amounting to P100,000. Her master loan (big-ber) borrowings got, she considered a point member.

"I want my children to have more than what I have now," she says. "I want them to have more than farming because they won't be a difficult. But without education, my neighbors and I would never have been able to send our children to college."

From abused maid to candle maker

"I truly finished grade 6. I still don't write very well. But I forced myself to earn."

ALMIRA

Growing up in Surigao, Alicia Almira and her 14 siblings eared scrounge for earnings by harvesting nipa (nasasa) and selling coconuts to buyers. At 24, she became a mom-cum-maid in Manila, but was growing unsatisfied.

Through the only finished grade 6, a few people took a chance on Almira. A school principal assisted her taken for sewing and asked her to make uniforms. She used her savings from those jobs to buy her own sewing machine. For working capital, she was granted a microentrepreneurship from Mentor Ning, Inc. A Chinese businessman supplied her with plenty of wax, even when she could only pay tuition for a little.

Nanny Aline has since put four children and several relatives through college. Many of them still earn a living through her candle business today. Her candle business employs up to 40 people during peak season.

Building on a 'lean house'

"I am a lot of unpleasant things growing up in a bad house. People called my mother a whore, but I'm proud of what I

ISMAEL

still have."
- Initial loan: P40,000
- Annual sales: P2.3 M
- Annual profit: P600,000

As the son of a GSO (guest relations officer), Ismael Bayawa spent many nights crying in the basement of a hotel house in Isabela, embossing things his child should see. When he was old enough, he left on my his back to Cadotcan City, Metro Manila. Having finished only high school, he sold barbecue on the streets to earn a living. Life was hard, and he soon took to hustle to work as a helper in a welding shop.

Many years later, the love home he grew up in doesn't seem. Ismary decided to use the space to open his own welding shop. He had his welding machines and new helpers. One mid-night, they both used repaired transfers, trailers, and other equipment that other shops refused to fix.

In 2005, he borrowed P40,000 from the First Isabela Cooperative Bank (FICO) to expand his business. Today, his shop holds some of the best farming equipment in Southern Luzon.

He employs 15 people, whose life and health team since needs he takes personal care of. "He knows the life of a worker," says one of his employees. "That's why he understands our needs."

Old wood-cutting machine started it

"We had no bath, no stairs. We had to lug for cement to put on the floor to set

SUSAN

could stop."
- Initial loan: P5,000
- Annual sales: P960,000
- Annual profit: P360,000

Abaloyan Quiapol Bahri, Susana was only 15 years old when she got married. She and husband Bernard struggled for years, with no means of their own and no steady income.

A turning point came when Susan's in-laws gave them a machine for cutting wood. "We [started to] earn more, P500 sometimes," says Bernard. "That's how our furniture shop got started."

In 2003, Susan took out her first loan of P5,000 from Alalay sa Kaunlaran, Inc. (ASKI). She used the money to purchase wood, then took a second loan to purchase more materials.

By 2007, the Quiapo were running one of Ilaya's most popular furniture shops. They were employing four regular workers and 15 on call workers. A second shop in Diversidad was in the works.

Susan also went back to school. "Pero [as laughter] as me," she says. "I'm old but I'm still in school. Sometimes my children ask me to help them with their homework, but I'm ashamed to tell them I cannot help them because I only finished Grade 6. [When people teach me], my husband's support keeps me strong."

[All stories were reprinted from www.pinoyme.com.]

Top tips for the budding online marketer

Pronounce IT

second 66 percent of shopping-related searches are coming from mobile. And Filipinos are increasingly turning to their smartphones for answers as well. Research shows that around 6M persons of Filipino households already own at least one smartphone, and more—over 23 percent—Filipinos intend to purchase smartphones this year.

In even if you have a great desktop website, you may still be missing out on potential customers by neglecting to create a mobile-optimized site. Test whether your site is mobile-ready by using easily available tools that can show you how your current site looks on mobile while providing a personalized report on what's working, and what could be improved. You can also quickly build a mobile-friendly site by using a tool like Google's mobile site builder.

5. **What's your budget?** Fine-tuning plans will allows and be affected by your budget. Find a balance between what your needs are and what you can afford to optimize your investment. Perhaps you don't really need that banner ad and instead consider text ad may do the trick.

Five tips to reach your audience

1. **Rank higher in search engine results.** Have your website to rank higher in search results? If so, then search engine optimization (SEO) is the right strategy for your business. One key factor in determining your website's rank in results is the presence of useful and information-rich pages with relevant, that is concise and relevant to viewers.

It also helps to make sure that your site is available for indexing. For example, you can submit your website to Google for indexing. You can even get reports that contain information like which keywords trigger results that include your site from the Webmaster Tools section.

2. **Tailor your messages.** People click on ads that give them what they're looking for. When building a search marketing campaign on a platform like AdWords, identify the relevant keywords by anticipating your customers' search behavior and choosing those that are most likely to lead potential customers to your ad.

The goal (for best results), your keywords should be directly related to your products and the content of your ads. The better the ads are at giving people what they're looking for, the better the returns for marketers.

3. **Don't make your audience work for the information.** To increase the likelihood of a click, make sure the URL in your ad directs people to the specific page within your website that clearly displays the product you offered in your ad. Typical Internet users make quick decisions about whether to stay on a website, so don't lower them guessing.

4. **Make it easier for your audience to find you offline, online.** Want people to visit your brick-and-mortar store? Nearly 97 percent of people search for local businesses online. Make your physical store more visible in search results by adding your address, map and directions on Google Places for Business, for free.

5. **Harness the power of data analysis.** Monitor your campaign with free web analytics tools. Whether you are looking to generate higher website traffic or increasing online sales, looking at the data can help you better target your campaign. Use conversion tracking software to determine which keywords are leading to clicks, and which clicks to sales. If something isn't working, tweak and try again.